THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

WORLD SOCCER®

www.worldsoccer.com

MARCH 2002 £2.70

CANADA $ 8.25 USA $ 5.75

Ronaldo

Exclusive: 'My comeback'

D'Alessandro

Argentina's brightest new star

Mali...the greatest?

The full story of the 2002 African Nations Cup

Selsport® *Quality does matter*

New range available soon from the UK's premier sports retailers:

GREAVES SPORTS
0141-221 3322

PRO-DIRECT
01803-200343

SOCCER SCENE
020-7439 0778

And other selected retailers

In Safe Hands!

For further details call **Selsport • UK Enquiries 020 8658 2007 • European Enquiries 00 44 208 650 0022**

MARCH 2002 VOL.42 NO.6
Cover: Ronaldo (Internazionale)

EDITOR
Gavin Hamilton
ART EDITOR
Gary Payne
PRODUCTION EDITOR
Peter Neish
PICTURE EDITOR
Duncan Bond
NEWS EDITOR
Jamie Rainbow
EDITORIAL SECRETARY
June Hiscock
PICTURES
Empics, Allsport, Reuters, PA Photos

Thanks this issue to
Mike Hughes, David Rallis, Daniel Fein

EDITORIAL
King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street,
London SE1 9LS
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7261 5737
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7261 7474
E-mail: world_soccer@ipcmedia.com

ADVERTISING
Phillip Craghill, Simon Gerard
PRODUCTION MANAGER Tom Jennings

MANAGING DIRECTOR Sylvia Auton
PUBLISHING DIRECTOR Hamish Dawson
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Fiona Mercer

Display Ads +44 (0) 20 7261 5499
Classified Ads +44 (0) 20 7261 2823
Back Issues +44 (0) 20 8503 0588
Back Issues e-mail: ipcback@aol.com

International licensing enquiries
+44 (0) 20 7261 7715 or 7082
E-mail: Siriliya_Nawalkar@ipcmedia.com

ipc COUNTRY & LEISURE MEDIA

SUBSCRIPTIONS
ORDER HOTLINE
+44 (0) 1622 778 778
E-mail: ipcsubs@qss-uk.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS RATES
Annual subscription is for 12 months
(13 issues, prices include postage) UK: £35.10
Europe/Eire (inc. VAT): £43 (airmail)
USA: £54 (airmail)
Australia, Far East, Asia, Africa: £58.30 (airmail)
Rest of world: £54 (airmail)
Surface worldwide: £40

SUBSCRIPTIONS DEPARTMENT
Rockwood House,
9-17 Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 3DH, England
Tel: +44 (0) 1444 475 675

WORLD SOCCER is a member of
ESM EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
● A Bola (Portugal) ● Don Balon (Spain) ● Foot (Belgium) ● Kicker (Germany) ● La Gazzetta dello Sport (Italy) ● Sport-Express (Russia) ● Voetbal International (Holland) ● World Soccer (UK)

March 2002

contents

COVER STORY Ronaldo
'The Phenomenon' returns for Inter. *Pages* 12-15

African Nations Cup
The full story from Mark Gleeson in Mali. *Pages* 41-46

World Cup countdown
Latest news from Korea/Japan. *Pages* 16-23

Baggio bows out
End of the road for Italy's Little Prince. *Page* 47

REGULARS
Libero 4
Keir Radnedge 26
World Service 31
Italy 47
Spain 48
Germany/France 50
UK 52
Rest of Europe 54
South America 62
North & Central America 64
Asia 67
Oceania 68
Crossword 68
Brian Glanville 72

PROFILES
Andres D'Alessandro 4
Owen Hargreaves 17
Rolando Fonseca 18
Claudio Reyna 18
Stig Tofting 20
Gaizka Mendieta 20
Shinji Ono 21
Shay Given 22
Jerzy Dudek 22
Hans Vonk 23
Francisco Pavon 49
Torsten Frings 51
Oscar Moens 55
Giorgios Karagounis 59

RONALDO is our cover star this month – for the first time in three years. That tells you all you need to know about his fragile physical state during that time. Though it is far too early to say, the worrying signs are that we may never see Ronaldo return to the sort of form which delighted the world in that trail-blazing season at Barcelona in 1996-97. Few players have fully recovered from such serious injuries – torn ligaments in the same knee, four times in four and a half years – as those suffered by Ronaldo. For a player whose game depends so heavily on such blistering speed and power, he remains remarkably upbeat about his predicament (see our interview, page 14). But the future for Ronaldo looks, at best, uncertain.

There are worrying parallels between Ronaldo's career and the financial boom that football has enjoyed in the past decade – a boom that is now threatening to go bust. The signs are there – the collapse of ISL, the unpaid wages at Fiorentina, the empty stands at the Middlesbrough-Man United FA Cup tie – that football's bubble has reached bursting point.

With all this going on, it's been hard to concentrate on the football. But our World Cup countdown continues with the second of our Essential Guide booklets, presented free to you with this issue. If you missed part one, you can order extra copies from our website, www.worldsoccer.com.

Part three follows, you guessed it, next month.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

● 07/01/02...John Carew returns to Spain after Valencia fail to agree terms with Fulham over his transfer to England

● 08/01/02...Bayern Munich admit they are prepared to listen to offers for German international striker Carsten Jancker

● 09/01/02...Parma's Japanese international Hidetoshi Nakata rejects a loan move to Brescia

● 10/01/02...England assistant coach Tord Grip is admitted to hospital suffering from chest pains

● 10/01/02...Anghel Iordanescu returns for a second spell as coach of the Romanian national side

D'Alessandro in demand

Europe awaits Argentina's brightest new star

WHILE Buenos Aires burns, European clubs gleefully prepare to shop in the fire sale. With debts mounting by the minute, Argentina's teams have no option but to sell – and desperation forces the price down.

Just a few years ago the most sumptuous dish on the menu was delivering pizzas in his home neighbourhood. Now Andres D'Alessandro is topping the wanted list of many of the European giants.

Armed with Diego Maradona's seal of approval, the young playmaker is one of the most exciting prospects to come out of South America in years. His tight dribbling skills are superb, his left foot can pass long or short, and he is blessed with an instinctive awareness of space and angles.

With his large head and short hair, he has the air of a cartoon character from the Bash Street Kids – a comparison borne out by the sense of joyful mischief in his play and the chaos he can cause in opposing defences.

The son of a taxi driver, D'Alessandro is embarking on what seems sure to be an exciting journey through top-class football. A long apprenticeship has already been served; for 13 years – often in the company of Javier Saviola – he rose through the ranks at River Plate.

Along the way it was apparent that the club had unearthed something special. Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa certainly thought so. Even before D'Alessandro had made his River debut he was invited to travel with the national squad. A performance against England for the Under-21s had Premiership scouts scribbling furiously in their notebooks.

But the leap to senior football caused problems. The quicker pace and extra physical demands made it harder to stamp his mark. He still struggles for stamina, which helps explain why he was used sparingly as Argentina triumphed in last year's World Youth Cup. He played in all the games, but was on the field for just 60 per cent of the time. However, his contributions were memorable and decisive, and won the praise of observers from all over the world.

His confidence thus boosted, D'Alessandro was ready for a senior breakthrough, and he enjoyed a magnificent first campaign in River's starting line-up. It could also be his last, with a queue of European clubs preparing to whisk him away. Juventus are at the head of it, the talk being that Daniel Fonseca and Juan Esnaider will move to River as part of the deal.

The season might even end with a trip to Asia. Bielsa lets little slip, but he did comment that D'Alessandro was in with a chance of making the World Cup squad. For all Argentina's strength in depth, they struggle without Juan Sebastian Veron. Pablo Aimar has looked a lightweight replacement, and Bielsa seems to feel the rhythm of Juan Riquelme's game is too slow.

With such little senior football behind him, D'Alessandro would be a bold choice. But his talent makes a strong case for a place on the bench, a one-man Plan B to be unleashed in times of trouble.

Tim Vickery

The month in pictures

● 11/01/02...Roberto Mancini is the latest managerial casualty in Italy, quitting his post as coach of cash-strapped Fiorentina

● 13/01/02...Swedish international Freddie Ljungberg scores for Arsenal in their 1-1 draw with fellow Premier League title-chasers Liverpool. John Arne Riise scores the equaliser for Liverpool

Weah: one of Africa's greats

Liberia's finest bows out in Mali

GEORGE WEAH, one of Africa's most successful and inspirational footballers, announced his international retirement at the Nations Cup in Mali, bringing the curtain down on an illustrious playing career.

Weah, 35, had threatened to quit last summer following Liberia's failure to qualify for this year's World Cup. He was persuaded to return for the Nations Cup campaign, but insisted that his decision is now final.

"This is definitely it," Weah said after defeat by Nigeria in Mopti had eliminated Liberia at the end of the group stage. "I've given it all I can. You've got to give the young guys a chance."

For more than a decade, Weah has been a symbol of unity and hope for civil war-torn Liberia. When the country's political leadership failed to provide for the national side, the Lone Star, it was Weah, the only African to be named World and European Footballer of the Year, in 1995, who stepped in.

With money earned from his time at Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain and Milan, he paid for kits and travel expenses, handled the qualifying paperwork and acted as de facto coach. With Weah at the helm, the Lone Star qualified for their first Nations Cup finals in 1996.

"I hope that they can carry on without me, because the team has come a long way in the past few years," said Weah. "It would be a shame to let that go."

Weah's time with the Liberian national side has been dogged by run-ins with the country's authorities. He suggests that they now retire his No 14 shirt in recognition of his contribution. "If they want to do something for me they should take it out of the team, just in remembrance of what I have done for the country and the African continent," he said.

The immediate future is unlikely to involve a return to Liberia. After seeing out his contract with Al Jazira in the United Arab Emirates, Weah will return to New York, where his children are educated, a world away from the instability of his war-ravaged homeland, and he can continue his work as a UNICEF ambassador.

Weah insists he does not want a political role in Liberia. But there will be pressure on him to become a spokesman, even leader, for the African game. We have surely not seen the last of one of the greatest African footballers of all time.

Gavin Hamilton

● *Full African Nations Cup reports in World Service.*

NOTES AND QUOTES

"Our shirts are perfect for hot temperatures. They are special shirts for a special team."
Cameroon's Patrick Suffo on the sleeveless shirts his side wore at the African Nations Cup.

Playing it cool...Patrick Suffo

"I'm ready to sell Fiorentina for nothing to get out of this nightmare."
Club owner and media mogul Vittorio Cecchi Gori after being slammed by Fiorentina supporters in a heated exchange on an Italian talk show.

"At Juventus I took creatine, which isn't prohibited. Now I'm at Real, I only take vitamins."
Zinedine Zidane tells French paper Le Monde *about his change of pharmaceutical intake.*

"Our current shareholding [5.7 per cent] is only a start. In time we would like to increase it to 20 per cent."
El Saadi Gaddafi, the son of the infamous Libyan president, on the acquisition of Juventus shares by a national holding company.

● 14/01/02...Dick Advocaat rejects an approach to become national coach of Holland for a second time

● 15/01/02...Confusion surrounds the status of Paolo Di Canio, with West Ham, who rejected a £1.5million bid from Manchester United, said to be holding out for £3m

● 15/01/02...Former Italy international striker Fabrizio Ravanelli dismisses speculation linking him with the vacant manager's post at Derby County

The waiting game

Javier Clemente is ready for the call, says Keir Radnedge

JAVIER CLEMENTE sits at home in Spain waiting for the call – any call. He is one of a select band of leading coaches who have been sidelined partly by events, partly by choice, despite being among the most expert in the world game.

Louis Van Gaal, recently departed boss of Holland, is another. Then there are Italian Dino Zoff, moved out by Lazio, and Fatih Terim, formerly of Turkey and Milan.

All of them know everything about taking nations into the finals of the game's greatest competitions such as the World Cup and the European Championship. All, like Clemente, are resting on their laurels right now. While they wait, they toy with the idea of taking a backroom role or becoming a media pundit.

Not Clemente. Not the 51-year-old Basque whose gritty, down-to-earth style saw him through the pain of a career-wrecking injury at 23 and, later, six turbulent years in which he established Spain as permanent fixtures at the big events.

Clemente, who took Athletic Bilbao to their first League title in 27 years in 1983 then guided Espanyol to the 1988 UEFA Cup Final, cannot wait for the right opportunity to get back into harness.

He explains: "Being a football coach is what I enjoy the most and I cannot wait for the chance to get involved again. Whether that means at home or abroad is really neither here nor there. Obviously, I would prefer to continue my coaching career in Spanish football – because this is my home and it's the football environment I know the best.

"But I must say I wouldn't be very keen to go in at the deep end in mid-season with a struggling team that needs saving from relegation. If a good offer came from abroad, I would consider it seriously, of course."

Clemente would relish the chance to work in English football. It's always been a dream of his. Not only has he always been inspired by the commitment and passion of the English game, but he feels the foreign media has been fairer to him down the years than the partisan Spanish press.

"I don't know why that is," says Clemente. "I've always tried to work to the best of my ability. The last three jobs I've had – with Betis, Real Sociedad and Marseille in France – were all about avoiding relegation, and I did just that. Wasn't that good enough?

"Anyway, I leave these things to my agents. I am happy to sit back and wait until they have anything to tell me. It's always very pleasant to hear your name linked with this job or that job. But it's really nothing more than hot air. I am a realist. If I can't see or touch something, then I don't believe it."

Clemente's penchant for calling a spade a shovel did not always

The month in pictures

● 16/01/02...Liberia's players agree to take part in the African Nations Cup after reaching agreement with their federation over the payment of bonuses

● 17/01/02...Witch-doctors are banned from accompanying teams at the African Nations Cup in Mali

● 20/01/02...South Africa and Burkina Faso play out a 0-0 draw in their opening African Nations Cup group match

make him popular with Spanish federation officials during his reign as national coach, never mind the media. Not that he worries about that, saying: "The only thing that should matter for the national coach is having a good working relationship with both the president of the federation and with the best players in the country. I was manager of Spain for six years and I never had any problems with my players – even right at the end.

"They were terrific years at the highest possible level of the game and, although we didn't win anything, I think we established the Spanish national team as one of the best in the world. Even my critics couldn't ignore the fact."

Clemente is delighted to see successor Jose Antonio Camacho taking Spain back to the World Cup finals, but has doubts about whether they can win it for the first time.

"Our biggest problem," says Clemente, "has always been that everyone believes we have won the World Cup before the tournament has even started. Then we come down to earth with a bump. Confidence is fine, over-confidence is dangerous.

"We always go into a World Cup underrating the other teams – and no one goes to the World Cup finals just to make up the numbers. Everyone else goes there with exactly the same ambition and will to win as we do. We forget that and it can prove very costly."

ESM ELEVEN

EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

TEAM OF THE MONTH - JANUARY 2002

HOW THEY LINE UP

Antonioli (Roma, 2 votes); Ferrara (Juventus, 4), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid, 3), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid, 5); Assuncao (Roma, 3), Zidane (Real Madrid, 4), Keane (Manchester United, 3), Nedved (Juventus, 3); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United, 7), Vieri (Internazionale, 6), Jardel (Sporting Lisbon, 5)

A BOLA (Por)

Dudek (Liverpool); G Neville (Manchester United), Materazzi (Internazionale), Samuel (Roma), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Veron (Manchester United), Zidane (Real Madrid); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Jardel (Sporting Lisbon), Pauleta (Bordeaux)

DON BALON (Spa)

Casillas (Real Madrid); Luzhnyi (Arsenal), Berizzo (Celta Vigo), Ismael (Lens), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Bellamy (Newcastle), Assuncao (Roma), Nedved (Juventus); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Vieri (Internazionale), Jardel (Sporting Lisbon)

FOOT MAGAZINE (Blg)

Warmuz (Lens); Ferrara (Juventus), Wallemme (Lens), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Assuncao (Roma), Vieira (Arsenal), Keane (Manchester United), Zidane (Real Madrid); Vieri (Internazionale), Mpenza (Schalke)

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (Ita)

Buffon (Juventus); Cafu (Roma), Ferrara (Juventus), Ayala (Valencia), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Keane (Manchester United), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Valeron (Deportivo La Coruna), Zidane (Real Madrid); Vieri (Internazionale), Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United)

KICKER (Ger)

Toldo (Internazionale); Michel Salgado (Real Madrid), Thuram (Juventus), Terry (Chelsea), Candela (Roma); Geremi (Real Madrid), Makelele (Real Madrid), Keane (Manchester United), Nedved (Juventus); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Vieri (Internazionale)

SPORT EXPRESS (Rus)

Antonioli (Roma); Ferrara (Juventus), Coloccini (Alaves), Armand (Nantes); Beckham (Manchester United), Blanchard (Lens), Mostovoi (Celta Vigo), Tacchinardi (Juventus), Bohme (Schalke); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Jardel (Sporting Lisbon)

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (Hol)

Casillas (Real Madrid); J Zanetti (Internazionale), Wallemme (Lens), Samuel (Roma), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Assuncao (Roma), Zidane (Real Madrid), Nedved (Juventus); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Vieri (Internazionale), Jardel (Sporting Lisbon)

WORLD SOCCER (UK)

Antonioli (Roma); Eriberto (Chievo), Nesta (Lazio), Ferrara (Juventus), Riise (Liverpool); Emerson (Roma), Dyer (Newcastle), Raul (Real Madrid); Vieri (Internazionale), Jardel (Sporting Lisbon), Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United)

NOTES AND QUOTES

"The atmosphere at Parma is like at a funeral."
Full-back Gianluca Falsini after being transferred from struggling Parma to Atalanta.

"They have been trying to offload me here, there and everywhere. So I had to make the decision myself."
Greek striker Angelos Haristeas signs a DIY deal with Werder Bremen, snubbing attempts by Aris Salonika to sell him either to Lens or Parma.

"Belgium are a dirty side; Japan are livewire karate kids."
Russian star Yegor Titov pays his respects to his side's World Cup opponents.

Modest as ever...Mario Jardel

"No one in Portugal can understand why I'm not playing in Spain or Italy."
Self-effacement from prolific Sporting Lisbon striker Mario Jardel.

"Those who jeered us are tramps."
Flamengo coach Carlos Alberto Torres after he and his team were barracked following a 1-1 draw with Guarani.

The month in pictures

● 22/01/02...Manchester United complete the signing of Uruguayan Diego Forlan from Independiente of Argentina

● 25/01/02...Dick Advocaat agrees to become Holland's new coach

● 25/01/02...Eusebio, on his 60th birthday, is special guest at the draw for Euro 2004

● 27/01/02...Barcelona are booed from the pitch after a 1-0 home defeat by Osasuna

Paul Gardner

GLOBAL VIEW

Working for the clampdown

IFAB, the International Football Association Board, strikes me as being a pretty archaic institution. Before you ask, these are the guys – there are eight of them – who meet once a year to decide on what should, and should not, be the rules of the game.

Actually, no – not rules. Laws – with a capital L. They take themselves very seriously, these guys. The use of that word smacks of Victorian pomposity, and so does the composition of IFAB. Eight members, four of whom are always British – representatives from the English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh FAs. In a globally-played sport, it's hardly worth bothering to point out the absurdity and the inequity of that set-up.

I mean...Wales? A rugby-playing 'country' whose soccer existence serves only to ensure that a genius like Ryan Giggs never gets to play in the World Cup?

And what makes the Irish and the Scots such great Law givers? One thing, though; as they all speak English, you'd think they'd be able to get their own name right. But they can't even manage that – this should surely be the International Association Football Board. IAFB. Sounds Welsh to me.

The Board is meeting round about now, and as this is a World Cup year, it should have important things to say. Doubtful. IFAB has yet to realise, having had over 100 years to think about it, that the kick-off rule, which requires the ball to be kicked forward, is nonsense and should be thrown out.

While maintaining an ancient absurdity like that, IFAB is keen to make sure that the 20th century is kept at a distance – no television replays or goal-line electronics for them! Churchill's wonderful jibe at the Civil Service comes to mind. They sit, like inverted Micawbers, waiting for something to turn down.

> 'Yet again the tackle from behind is a favourite target. This is odd, as it's supposed to have been clamped out of existence'

Increasingly, the impetus for rule changes and adjustments comes from FIFA itself – maybe the Technical Committee or even the Referees Committee or, more likely, from the president, Sepp Blatter, himself.

Before each major tournament, FIFA issues a memorandum, a series of instructions to referees. Not infrequently, these contain instructions that are not in the official rules – and even contradict those rules.

I recall a 1992 World Cup qualifying game in which a Welshman (well, he would be, wouldn't he?) trying to take a long throw found a Belgian opponent deliberately standing right in front of him. The Belgian was not breaking any rule – but the linesman waved him back. I later learned that referees had been advised – by FIFA, not IFAB – to allow "enough room" for throws to be taken.

Already we are hearing from FIFA about how it expects referees to perform in Korea/Japan this year. They will be required, as ever, to clamp down. Clamping down is a traditional referee activity at World Cups. Yet again, the favourite target is the tackle from behind. Odd this, as it's supposed to have been clamped out of existence. FIFA calls it the outlawed tackle from behind.

Further clamping-down activity will be required to prevent "excessive use of force" and to banish simulation. Diving, that is.

I worry about that last one, especially as Blatter has already stated that "special instructions" will be given to referees to punish the most blatant examples with a red card. I bet the worst refereeing decision in Korea/Japan will involve a red card for a dive that wasn't a dive.

But these are old hat. I feel we need some new clampdown targets, so I offer the following to FIFA or IFAB or Blatter or whoever makes these decisions.

● Clamp down on players who show "dissent by word or action" to a referee's decision. This is supposed, under Rule 12, to be an automatic yellow card, yet the rule is repeatedly broken with impunity.

Then I have a couple of auto-clampdowns. Referee behaviour that needs to be got rid of.

● Clamp down on referees who wave their hands making that objectionable 'get up' motion to players lying or sitting on the ground. It smacks of arrogance and contempt, two attributes that referees hardly need to display. Anyway, it won't be long before a seriously injured player is told to get up. When he sues, the referee will be condemned by that signal. Why not just signal or shout for play to continue?

● Clamp down on the verbal warning for violent physical play. A player commits a bad tackle, the referee comes up, lectures him for 15 or 20 seconds. And doesn't give a card.

What does he say? Maybe, 'do that again and you'll be in the book'. That can't be – there is nothing in the rules that says a player gets two shots at breaking someone's leg before he's yellow-carded. Nor is there anything in the rules about verbal warnings.

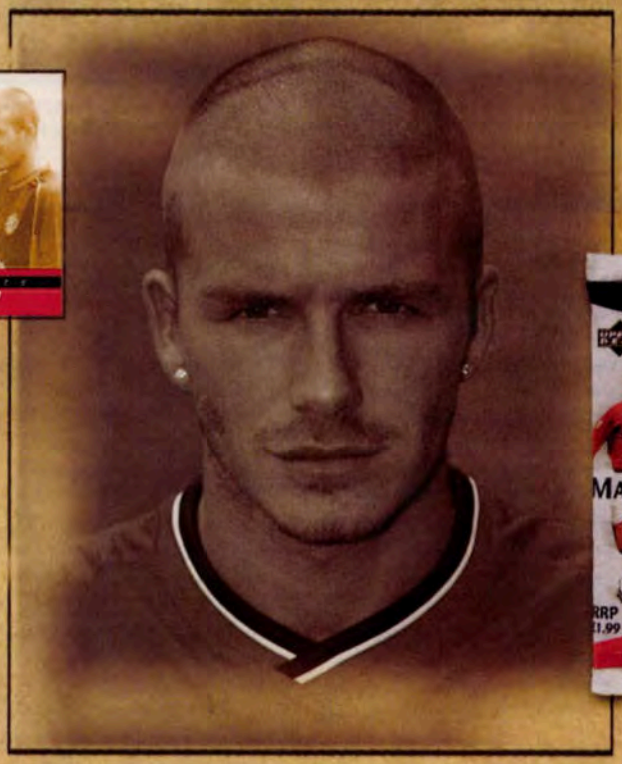
What on earth could the rules say? Something like 'if a player commits a foul that is within 10 per cent [or would it be 12 per cent or 5 per cent?] of being a yellow card, just give him a stern lecture'.

Which would, anyway, raise the language problem. British referees seem particularly fond of the chat. I wonder how many of them chat fluently in Turkish, for instance?

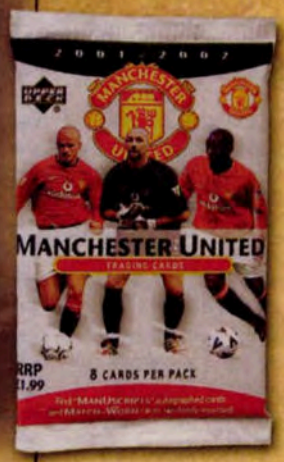
WANTED!

DAVID BECKHAM

Find this David Beckham Autographed ManUscripts–GOLD Version DB-G card (numbered to 7) and The Upper Deck Company, LLC will give you £2,000 in exchange for your card.



Only 7 of these cards exist randomly in 2001/2002 Upper Deck Manchester United trading cards.



REWARD

UPPER DECK®

£2,000

MANCHESTER UNITED®

It's simple, capture his card, get the reward.

DAVID BECKHAM SWEEPSTAKES OFFICIAL RULES

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. NOR WILL A PURCHASE IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF WINNING. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW.

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Participant must be eighteen (18) years of age or older and a legal resident of **The United Kingdom only.** The first seven (7) participants to send in a David Beckham ManUscripts-GOLD Version DB-G card (#'d to 7) in specially marked packs of 2001/2002 Upper Deck Manchester United (Main Release) trading cards will receive two thousand pounds ($2,000.00) each. Employees, officers and directors of The Upper Deck Company, LLC, Manchester United Entities, and any of their respective parent companies, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotional agencies and the immediate families (including parents, spouse, children, siblings, grandparents) of such employees, and all those with whom such employees are domiciled, are NOT eligible. Sweepstakes shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law and the parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.
2. **TIMING.** Sweepstakes begins on January 25, 2002 at 12:00:01 a.m. PST and ends on June 25, 2002 at 11:59:59 p.m. PST. All entries must be postmarked by June 21, 2002 and received by June 28, 2002.
3. **ENTRY:** There are two ways to enter: A. Send in your autographed card along with a 3" x 5" card/paper with your name, complete address, age and daytime phone number, and mail in an envelope to the address below :

The Upper Deck Company – European Office. Postjeswg 175, 1062 JN Amsterdam, The Netherlands

WINNING CARDS WILL NOT BE SENT BACK TO THE COLLECTOR.

B. To enter without purchasing a pack of 2001/2002 Upper Deck Manchester United (Main Release) trading cards: hand-print your name, complete address, age and daytime phone number on a 3" x 5" card/paper, and mail in to The Upper Deck Company, European Office. Postjeswg 175, 1062 JN Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Only one (1) entry per person per day is permitted, regardless of method of entry. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any person that submits multiple entries on a given day. No copies or mechanical reproductions of entries will be accepted. One pack will be opened per mail in request. Sponsor will not notify non-winners.

4. **SPONSOR.** The Upper Deck Company, LLC ("Sponsor") and its affiliates and/or agencies are not responsible for lost, late, damaged, delayed, destroyed, misdirected, incomplete, illegible or postage due entries/mail. Once submitted, entries become the exclusive property of the Sponsor and will not be acknowledged or returned.
5. **SELECTION OF POTENTIAL WINNERS.** The winners must comply with all terms and conditions set forth in these Official Rules and by the decisions of the judges. Winning is contingent upon fulfilling all such requirements.
6. **PRIZES/APPROXIMATE RETAIL VALUE (ARV)/ODDS OF WINNING.** Total ARV of all prizes: £14,000. Odds of finding the card are 1:96,376. Except where prohibited, all taxes, customs duties and like amounts, fees, freight charges, insurance surcharges and other charges associated with receipt of the prize are the sole responsibility of winner. No transfer or substitution of prizes is permitted, except at the sole discretion of the Sponsor, who reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value if the prize cannot be awarded as described for any reason. Allow six (6) to eight (8) weeks for shipment of prizes.
7. **CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION.** Except where prohibited by law, by accepting prize, winner (or winner's parent/legal guardian if winner is a minor) agrees that Sponsor may use winner's name, address (city/state), likeness, and/or prize information, in any and all media worldwide, without limitation, for promotional purposes without further notice or compensation. By participating, entrant releases and holds harmless, The Upper Deck Company, LLC, Manchester United Merchandising Ltd., Manchester United Football Club, Manchester United PLC, and each of it's respective parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates and the directors, employees, officers, and agents, including without limitation, it's advertising/promotion agencies from any and all liability, loss, or damage of any kind incurred with respect to the awarding, receipt, possession, use or misuse of any prize and/or with respect to participation in any prize related activity or the Sweepstakes itself.
8. **RULES/WINNERS LIST REQUEST.** *For names of prizewinners or a copy of the Official Rules,* send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Upper Deck European Office by August 15, 2002.

This Sweepstakes is sponsored by The Upper Deck Company, LLC, 5909 Sea Otter Place, Carlsbad, CA 92008. Imported and distributed by The Upper Deck Company, LLC ©2001 Manchester United Plc. All rights reserved.
Upper Deck design and the card/hologram combination are trademarks of The Upper Deck Company, LLC. ©2001 The Upper Deck Company, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in the USA. The Upper Deck Company, LLC 5909 Sea Otter Place, Carlsbad, CA 92008

www.upperdeck.com WWW.MANUTD.COM

The month in pictures

● 28/01/02...Koln sack coach Ewald Lienen after dropping into the relegation zone following a 3-0 defeat by 1860 Munich

● 29/01/02...Lennart Johansson is the sole candidate in the forthcoming UEFA presidential election

● 31/01/02...the United States celebrate reaching the Final of the Gold Cup after beating Canada 4-2 on penalties following a 0-0 draw

● 03/02/02...Parma move out of the relegation zone following a 4-1 win over fellow strugglers Brescia, who replace Parma in the bottom four

Back in the fold

Brian Sturgess on the return of football to Afghanistan

ONE of the more surprising sights in war-torn Afghanistan is to see Pamir, a Kabul team, playing in West Bromwich Albion kit.

But thanks to BBC Radio Five Live presenter Adrian Chiles, a West Brom fan, and reporter Phil Mackie, who organised the acquisition and transportation of the kit, the players were able to step out in some style.

They were delighted. As Mackie points out: "Football can put a bit of fun into people's lives."

Enormous sums of money will be needed to reconstruct Afghanistan after years of strife, but a lot can be done with little to improve the quality of life. A lesson, no doubt, for the West's well-resourced clubs, who regularly throw away shirts after a change of sponsor.

Kabul stadium, where Pamir now play regularly, has been used for many things other than football. It provided the setting for executions, amputations, and even gun battles between rival factions during the civil war. The stadium, built in the 1960s, "has seen better days," according to Mackie, who was in the city shortly after Northern Alliance forces entered it in December last year. "The floodlights don't work, one floodlight is hanging down and there are bullet holes everywhere."

Despite these ramshackle facilities, club football among Kabul's four main teams continues to be played at the stadium. Players may have to change on the pitch and there is little in the way of spectator comfort, but the enthusiasm is still there.

Under the harsh Islamic regime of the Taliban, football was allowed, but under strict guidelines. Players were not permitted to wear shorts and the crowds forbidden to cheer on their team or cry out if a goal was scored. Nevertheless, there have been many cases of rebellion expressed through football. At some games, crowds cheered in defiance of the religious police, who were unable to act in the face of mass protest.

It proved easier to crack down on individuals. Syed Shah, a player for Kabul side Maywand and a Manchester United fan, was beaten and tortured by the Taliban for watching last year's Champions League quarter-final using a satellite dish made from oil cans. He was released only after a friend bribed his captors.

In Kandahar, players of a visiting youth team from Pakistan were arrested and had their heads shaved for having the temerity to play in shorts.

It is an especially sad state of affairs because football in Afghanistan has deep roots. In fact, it is probably the most popular sport in the country, ahead of wrestling, basketball and volleyball (both introduced by the Russians), and buzkashi, a type of polo played with a goat's head.

Crowded house...soccer in Kabul

The Football Federation of Afghanistan (FFA) was formed in 1933 and affiliated to FIFA in 1948. But Afghan clubs have never competed in continental tournaments and the national team's best result – they have not played since 1990 – was reaching the semi-finals of the 1951 Asian Games, when they lost 3-0 to India.

The Asian Football Confederation, of which Afghanistan was a founding member, hopes an official FFA delegation will attend the AFC Congress in Kuala Lumpur on May 10 and the FIFA Congress in Seoul on May 28-29.

After years of isolation, Afghanistan is slowly returning to the fold.

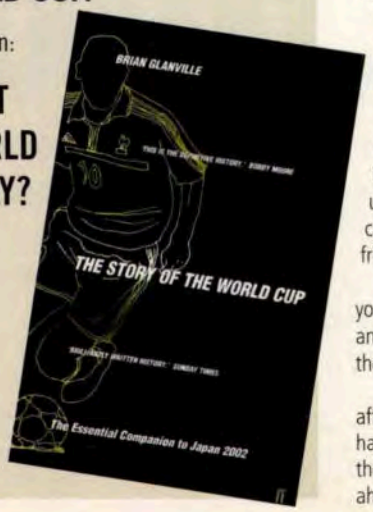
WIN THIS BOOK!

WE HAVE 10 COPIES OF BRIAN GLANVILLE'S NEW BOOK, A FULLY UPDATED VERSION OF THE STORY OF THE WORLD CUP.

Please answer the following question:

WHO SCORED THE FIRST GOAL OF THE 1930 WORLD CUP FINALS IN URUGUAY?

Send your answer on a postcard to:
Glanville book competition,
World Soccer, IPC Media,
Stamford Street,
London SE1 9LS



Answers must reach us by March 29.
Usual IPC Media competition rules apply.

bet365 INTERNATIONAL SPORTSBOOK

Sven's men for Glory?

WORLD CUP 2002

France	4/1
Argentina	4/1
Italy	6/1
Brazil	13/2
Spain	9/1
Portugal	11/1
Germany	12/1
England	12/1
Russia	33/1
Paraguay	33/1
Uruguay	40/1
Cameroon	40/1
Poland	40/1
Japan	40/1
Croatia	50/1
Rep of Ireland	50/1
Sweden	66/1

Each Way - 1/4,1,2 / Others on Request

GROUP E

Germany	8/13
Cameroon	10/3
Rep of Ireland	7/2
Saudia Arabia	16/1

GROUP F

Argentina	4/6
England	5/2
Sweden	7/1
Nigeria	8/1

Win Only
Other Groups on Request

WORLD CUP GOLDEN BOOT

Christian Vieri	9/1	Claudio Lopez	16/1
Thierry Henry	9/1	Fillipo Inzaghi	16/1
David Trezeguet	10/1	Giovanni Elber	16/1
Ronaldo	12/1	Alessandro Del Piero	20/1
Michael Owen	12/1	Morientes	20/1
Hernan Crespo	12/1	Nuno Gomes	25/1
Gabriel Batistuta	14/1	Henrik Larsson	40/1
Raul	14/1	Nicolas Anelka	40/1
Rivaldo	14/1		

E/W - 1/4,1,2,3,4. Others on Request

LIVE 'IN RUNNING' BETTING ON SKY TEXT PAGE 334

FREE £20 WIN TREBLE
Open an internet or telephone betting account and we will give you a FREE Win Treble to the value of your first bet up to £20.*
Any Sport, Any Combination

For a greater betting selection and even more 'specials' across all major international sporting events, your choice must be bet365.

Log-on to our website or call our 24 hour telephone betting service today. bet365, the international sportsbook.

TELETEXT SERVICES

SKY SPORTS 333	SKY SPORTS INVISION 334	RACING CHANNEL 353

24 HOUR INSTANT DEBIT BET
FREEPHONE
0800 458 8888
US TOLLFREE
1-866-4BET444

sportsclub365

What Bobby Robson says!

By opening a web or telephone betting account with bet365 you'll qualify* for membership of this outstanding club. There are monthly and annual super prize draws, a weekly newsletter, special offers, a great referrals draw and a chance to win tickets for the Champions League Final 2002.
Get on side with sportsclub365!

*Terms & conditions apply - see website

Bobby Robson
PATRON

OVER 18'S ONLY. PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION.

CUSTOMER SERVICES:
UNITED KINGDOM 0845 34 51 365
INTERNATIONAL +44 1782 408 111

*Internet customers - make your second bet a Win Treble to the same stake as your first bet, on any sport (max £20). If your win treble loses you will get your stake back! See website for conditions.
Telephone customers – free bet (max £20) to be placed during first call, winnings exclude stake.

INSTANT ONLINE BETTING
Fast, Easy, Secure

bet365.com INTERNATIONAL SPORTSBOOK

bet365.com is the URL of Bet365 Limited, registered in the United Kingdom as licensed bookmakers operating shop-based, telephone and internet betting services.
bet365 Limited, Hillside, Festival Way, Stoke-on-Trent ST15SH. Telephone: 0845 34 51 365 Facsimile: 01782 408001 Email: customerservices@bet365.com

Hector's house

Internazionale are mounting their strongest Italian title challenge for more than a decade. Paddy Agnew reports

DURING the pre-Christmas weekend of last year, as Internazionale were preparing for a Serie A clash with Piacenza, a reporter asked the club's Argentinian coach Hector Cuper if the players would be given time off to do their last-minute Christmas shopping. "Shopping is for the wives," he replied. "Let the players concentrate on their football."

Outwardly taciturn and distinctly understated in demeanour, Cuper may well prove to have been precisely what the doctor ordered for ailing giant Inter. For those unfamiliar with recent Inter history, let us remind you that the last three seasons have been both eventful and unsuccessful. This was a period when some of the best coaches around, from Mircea Lucescu to Marcello Lippi to Marco Tardelli, came and left with revolving-door regularity.

With no recent silverware on the sideboard and with eighth-, fourth- and fifth-placed Serie A finishes in the past three years, these have been tough times for Inter fans, who have been waiting since 1989 for a League title. Furthermore, that recent wait has been punctuated by the on-off, stop-go soap opera surrounding the club's most famous player, Brazilian striker Ronaldo.

By the halfway point in this season, however, Inter fans could hardly believe their eyes. For a start, Inter were right up there at the top of the table, either leading the way or lying second behind champions Roma. For a second, the season had been noticeable for the lack of scandal and off-the-field polemics that have made recent life and times at La Pinetina so newsworthy.

Gone were the public slanging matches between Roberto Baggio and Lippi, as were the post-match dressing-room scuffles of the sort that led one senior player to offer to hang Lucescu from the nearest coat-peg, while newshounds hoping for a re-run of the evening of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll involving Inter players during Tardelli's time were also to be disappointed.

Dour, determined and defensive in footballing attitude, Cuper was born to coach, and coach successfully, in Italian soccer. Furthermore, his low-profile, no-nonsense attitude – so far, he has not really bothered to learn Italian, preferring to give interviews in a hybrid of Spanish and some Italian – sits comfortably in the club's hallowed halls.

"If I have brought anything to Inter, it has been optimism. In Argentina, all the clubs, even those that in theory have no chance, all think to themselves at the beginning of the season: 'Well, who knows, maybe this year will be our year,'" Cuper told *Gazzetta Dello Sport* recently.

Clearly, it would be simplistic to suggest that Inter owe their revival exclusively to Cuper. His arrival last summer came within the context of a happy series of co-incidental factors. First and foremost, there is the return to form of long-time injured striker Christian Vieri. When Vieri is in the sort of form he has shown this season, then nothing is impossible for Inter. Cuper is the first to acknowledge this, saying: "I have already said, and I will repeat it, about Vieri. He's a player born to win. Everything else, the fact that he knocks himself out in training, that he is totally inspirational for the team, that he is a point of reference in the dressing-room, that is merely a consequence."

It is also true that Inter look much the stronger with defender Marco Materazzi, bought before Cuper was hired. Materazzi might lack the experience of his predecessor, Laurent Blanc, but he has a lot more pace and covers many more defensive holes (Manchester United fans can probably expand on this).

Nor has the Inter defence suffered with the purchase of former Fiorentina goalkeeper Francesco Toldo, who along with Gigi Buffon of Juventus, can rightly be considered the best in the land.

Likewise, former Roma midfielder Cristiano Zanetti was precisely what Cuper wanted in his hard-working midfield. Not for nothing, more creative players like Dutchman Clarence Seedorf and Uruguayan Alvaro Recoba struggle to get into the side. Not for nothing, too, was Roma coach Fabio Capello reportedly furious when he learned last summer that the champions had agreed to sell Zanetti back to Inter.

If Cuper can take little credit for Vieri's return to form or indeed for the purchases of Materazzi, Toldo and Zanetti, the same hardly applies to his handling of the Inter squad. Take a player like Sierra Leone striker Mohammed Kallon. Farmed out by Inter to Reggina and Vicenza in recent seasons, he has looked like an outstanding talent, scoring 11 and eight goals respectively with those clubs. Recalled to Inter last summer, Kallon was given every chance by the canny Cuper, who knew only too well that the role of understudy to Ronaldo could prove a long-drawn-out one as the Brazilian struggled to find fitness and remain injury-free.

In the end, Kallon has emerged as one of the surprises of the Inter season. So far, and we write this with all due respect to Ronaldo, the Inter attack has looked much more dangerous when it has been Vieri and Kallon rather than Vieri and Ronaldo, given that the latter is still a 'player on the way back'.

Another element in the thus far successful Inter mosaic concerns Cuper's most basic football instincts. Criticised for much of this season for being too cautious and too reliant on the goalscoring intuitions of Vieri, he recently addressed his detractors: "For the person who really likes football, acres of space and little closing down can end up being just boring. For me, though, I like to think back to our 0-0 draw with Roma. That game was a perfect example of a football in which you have to think and act quickly, do everything in a flash and in a tight corner. If my Inter takes its time getting the ball to the opponents' penalty box, that's no problem because I like my teams to be able to hold on to and play with the ball."

> 'Dour, determined and defensive in footballing attitude, Cuper was born to coach, and coach successfully, in Italian soccer'

Spoken like a true devotee of catenaccio, and with right good accent, too. One of the intriguing aspects of the rest of this season is that, in theory at least, both Inter and Cuper can only get better. At this stage, the coach has thoroughly acclimatised himself while the team is becoming used to the unfamiliar taste of success.

Furthermore, in a championship contest that realistically looks like a three-horse race with Roma and Juventus, Inter will be advantaged by not being involved in the Champions League, unlike the other two. Even if Inter continue to make progress in the UEFA Cup, in today's football that competition represents nothing like the physical and mental challenge of the Champions League.

Cuper, of course, knows all about the Champions League having taken Valencia to two successive Finals, both lost. Perhaps he will yet get the chance to make it third time lucky, this time with Inter. That may come further down the road, but, in the meantime, Inter have to win the scudetto.

Inter fans will be glad to know that, even while Cuper continues to keep his low profile and refuses to make propagandistic declarations re winning the title, not all members of the Inter camp are quite so shy. Goalkeeper Toldo, asked recently what Cuper had brought to Inter, replied cheerfully: "I would prefer to think of what he might still bring us, further down the road: namely the title."

'At last, I feel like a footballer again'

'The Phenomenon' may be back, but doubts persist about his long-term fitness. Hopes that Ronaldo's autumn comeback might allow him to play a large part in both Inter's title battle and Brazil's World Cup campaign received a setback in late December when he was substituted during Inter's League clash with Piacenza, allegedly because of a thigh strain.

A recurrence of that thigh problem in late January prompted Ronaldo to visit French specialist Philippe Boixel in Paris. Boixel added a new element to Ronaldo's lengthy medical history when suggesting that the Inter striker have infected teeth removed. Following that dental surgery, Ronaldo, in agreement with Inter, then opted for a period of rest and recovery in his native Rio de Janeiro.

Ronaldo's return to competitive action is timed for the start of March but, given his recent problems, that date could, as airline companies put it, be subject to alteration.

How are you feeling?
I feel great, really great. Maybe it's not wise to say so after so many problems. But it was wonderful to play again, and scoring goals has been a bonus. I have to thank my coach [Hector Cuper]. He has judged everything very carefully. It was frustrating to be a substitute for only a few minutes at first but it was for my own good. I know that. It's just that I was so impatient to play as much as possible and regain all my old fitness and form. The coach has had to hold me back.

Fans of all teams have given you a great reception. Did you expect that?
Certainly not. After all, the person most excited that I am playing again is me! But I would like to say thank you to all the people from around the world who have written to me and sent me good luck cards. When I scored that first goal, against Brescia, it was very emotional that even their supporters applauded me. That was very sporting, and I appreciated it. There is room in football for such gestures – despite what critics say.

Pele said he thought that you have grown up as a man over the past two years. What did he mean? You have never considered yourself a playboy, have you?
No, I don't think so. But I understand what Pele meant. People always say that problems make you stronger. That's true in my case. Also, in the past two years I have become a father, which has been a great blessing and, I suppose, has helped me think more responsibly about my lifestyle. That's then reflected – I hope – on the pitch.

Can Inter win the title this season?
Of course we can. We have a squad of great players. It's not about one or two individuals. You can see that from the fact that we have been top of the table this season even though Christian Vieri and I have been out injured. In fact, we have to worry about our places like every other player. That's a great incentive for the whole team.

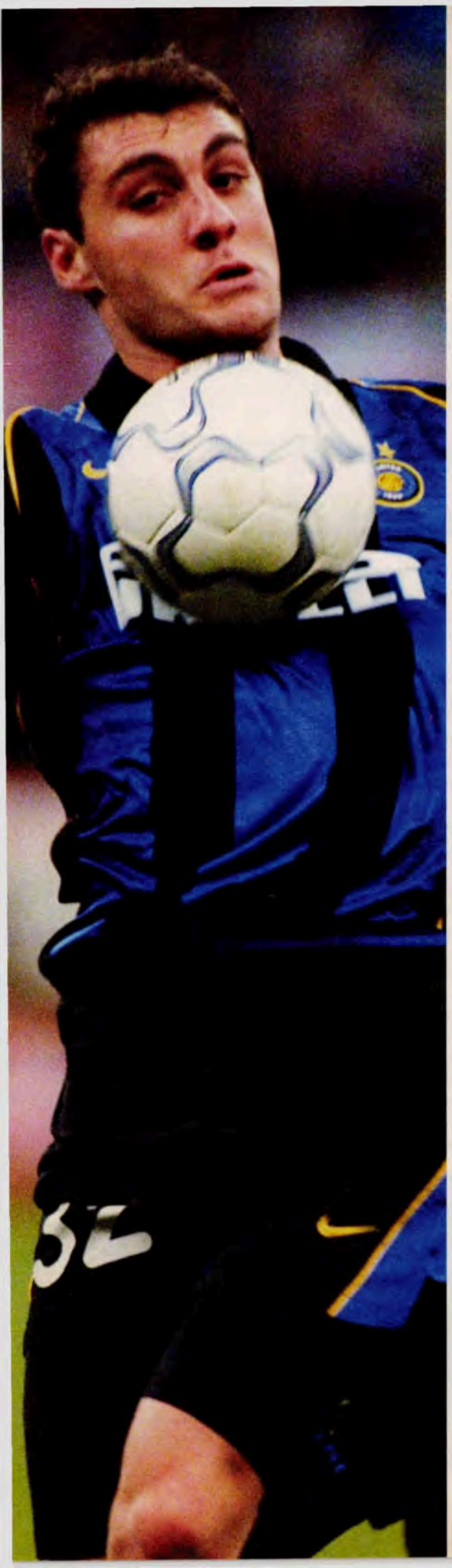
It's remarkable that Inter have not won the Serie A title since 1989. Why is that?
I only came here in 1997 – you can't blame me for the years before that. Seriously, I think the Italian League is the most competitive in the world. Inter, Juventus, Milan, Roma, Lazio…they are all great clubs and spend more money than anyone else on the greatest players. There is a very narrow line between winning the title and finishing runners-up. It can be one point, one goal, one lucky or unlucky bounce. Maybe we just haven't had the luck.

Apparently, Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari wanted to select you for the friendly against Saudi Arabia. Is that true?
The Brazilian federation has given me a lot of encouragement to get fit again. And though it's too early at the moment, it would be wonderful to play for Brazil again. Despite the problems in qualifying, I really believe we can do very well at the World Cup. But I have learned it's dangerous to look too far ahead. The priority is to be fit enough to play consistently and score goals for Inter. After all, they pay my wages and they have stood by me. I owe them so much.

What did you think when many people said you would never return?
I never took any notice. What did people on the outside know? The truth is that I always knew it would take a lot of time and a lot of hard work. I had to get on with it. That was the reality. Now I am happy not only for the club and the fans but for our president, Massimo Moratti, in particular. He's almost been like another father to me.

When did you feel you had turned the corner after all the pain?
On July 23, when we played a pre-season friendly against a little amateur club. I scored two goals and hit the post. That's when I felt, at last, that I was a footballer again.

Interview by Keir Radnedge



'The ideal team and the perfect city'

Are Inter going to win the scudetto?
I daren't even say the word scudetto. *You* can say that we'll win it, if you like, but I'm keeping quiet. It's certainly an Inter team to be scared of – we're tough to beat, we've got pace, we score often and we close down the opposition.

But Inter often play defensively.
It's important to know how to defend – in Italy, that's the most important thing. But defence alone doesn't bring results. Perhaps there have been times when we haven't done enough to win a game, but we're certainly improving.

We're also missing a few players – Dalmat is injured but in a couple of years he's going to be one of the world's best attacking players. Conceicao, as soon as he's back in shape, will once again be one of the greatest wingers. And Georgatos is a left-sided player of rare quality.

You said recently that at the start of the season you couldn't have foreseen such a strong Inter side.
That's right. After all the problems of the previous seasons, it was impossible to believe that we'd see everything going so brilliantly.

Has Hector Cuper been the solution?
We need someone who is demanding and exacting – and he's the right man for the job.

What have been the changes over the past season?
We're now working well together, we're calmer.

Does that mean that under Lippi and Tardelli that wasn't the case?
No, let's not confuse matters – I'm not accusing anyone.

How was the year 2001 for you?
It was a year in which, at long last, I was able to play with continuity, because I've been in continuously good physical shape.

Towards the end of last season, you were on the point of leaving Inter. And it was said that last summer, you weren't an easy person to be with.
I must confess, it was a tense time for me. It wasn't an easy summer. But if people say your career is on the skids, or if they're sarcastic about you behind your back, or tell lies about things you are supposed to have done – all this can, in fact, make you stronger inside.

What sort of lies?
Vieri is overdoing the nightlife. Vieri changes his woman every day. Vieri is unreliable. Things I don't listen to. I listen only to my own conscience. So, yes, I was having a bad time last summer, until July 12, my birthday, in fact, and the day on which [club president Massimo] Moratti called me in and we cleared the air. From that day, I was reborn as an 'Inter-ista'.

Moratti had known you for two years, though. What was it he said that day that made you change your point of view?
We just got a chance to get things off our chest and see each other's point of view. He told me how he intended to build up a truly great Inter side, and I was in complete agreement with him. This year we've seen the arrival of Toldo, Cristiano Zanetti, Conceicao, Materazzi, Emre, Kallon, Okan, Georgatos – all quality players. That's how we're getting to the top of our game.

And Ronaldo?
We waited patiently for him to recover, and in fact he came back early, which made me very happy because he's one of my best friends. The whole world wanted to see us play together, and we are the strongest partnership there is. We made it clear to everyone that Ronaldo-Vieri had been worth the wait. Now, he has a minor injury, but that's only to be expected because his body is still getting used to daily training sessions.

You, too, have had several injuries.
I've only had one significant injury, the one that stopped me going to Euro 2000. The rest were only minor, but I had to be careful in case someone tackled me recklessly. It's the price I pay for my style of play – I throw myself on to every ball and never avoid going in for headers.

What are your greatest strengths?
I always used to follow my instinct. But nowadays I count to three before I react.

This season is the first in which no one is talking of Vieri seeking a move.
I think I've found the ideal team and the perfect city. I used to move every year or so in order to get the widest experience. But I've had enough of that now and I'm staying put.

Interview by Dominique Antognoni

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Closing the net

Mike Plastow reports from Tokyo on Japanese plans to deal with English fans this summer

Hot reception...Saitama stadium, where England play their opening game against Sweden

POLICE and local officials across Japan are gearing up for the hooligans. The most novel idea so far is a Spiderman-style net gun now being studied by police in Sapporo, where England face Argentina, and Germany and Italy also have games.

The gun – which, ironically, is manufactured by a British company – shoots out a 25 square metre net to ensnare unruly fans. It can be fired a distance of five metres. About 20 have been ordered and practice is due to start shortly.

"It was obvious to us right away that this could be a useful weapon in riots," says Masatsugu Ogi of the World Cup Security Division in the local police force. "Of course, martial arts are also an important part of our training, but thinking of the Europeans' size and power, the nets might be more effective."

Ogi adds: "We've also learnt some English phrases such as 'Put your hands up'."

The divisional head in Sapporo, Takahiro Yamada, is preparing for a hard campaign. "Police power is going to be needed at this tournament," he says. "I am instructing all units to drill harder."

The Hokkaido police showed they mean business at an anti-hooligan drill in January in the popular Susukino entertainment quarter, six kilometres from the Sapporo stadium. With games kicking off at 8.30pm, it is feared many fans will drop in there before kick-off. About 60 policemen played the role of rowdies, ignoring instructions in English, throwing tables and bicycles around the street, and letting off fireworks. About 100 police charged in with riot shields and two-pronged staves to suppress the disorder.

The determination was also obvious in Osaka, where England play their third game, against Nigeria. About 700 officers took part in anti-hooligan training, using the traditional water cannons and shields.

Ko Yamaguchi, director general of communications for the Japanese World Cup organising committee, says: "Around 500 to 700 police will be operating very high levels of security at England's matches, more than at any others." The Japanese government has also passed a law to deny entry to the country to anyone found guilty of a football-related offence.

Hooliganism is a special headache for the Japanese organisers and security forces because they have so little experience of crowd trouble at major sporting events. But the organisers understand that Spiderman guns and martial arts must only be considered as a last resort.

"We know we mustn't over-react," says JFA president, Shunichiro Okano. "It's vital we don't clamp down on fans simply enjoying themselves and spoil the whole atmosphere of the World Cup."

The organisers have also been trying to ban the sale of alcohol inside grounds, but with limited success because of FIFA's sponsorship arrangements. Sources suggest that the final compromise may be to sell alcohol except at England games.

In Saitama, where England play their opening match, against Sweden, the local police have also already asked shops and bars not to sell alcohol on the day before and day of each match.

Tsuneo Watanabe, who heads the Saitama police World Cup office, says: "The voluntary restraint will no doubt hurt business, but does that mean it's right for hooligans to break everything up? We have no choice but to ask for people's co-operation. Alcohol only invites trouble, and we want to ban it inside the stadium as well."

The voluntary restraint will apply not only to the area around the stadium itself but also around other nearby stations such as Urawa and Omiya. In Sapporo, however, bar owners have expressed an unwillingness to follow suit.

Even without alcohol, crowd control is likely to be a headache at Saitama. Over 1,000 security officers were mobilised for Japan's dress rehearsal friendly with Italy in November, but proved powerless to prevent severe congestion and signs of real danger even without rowdy fans outside the ground.

The stadium is served only by the tiny, two-platform Urawa Misono station, which has a single entrance and steep, narrow steps. With few fans opting for the buses, 38,000 people crammed through the station that night.

It took some supporters more than 20 minutes even to get out of the station before the game, and many stood in queues for more than an hour afterwards, herded between flimsy plastic barriers from which there was no retreat. Add the heat, a rainy season downpour and language problems, and fans may feel in need of a drink in the summer.

Access problems were also experienced at Niigata at last year's Confederations Cup, when fans had to wait over an hour for shuttle buses. Miyagi stadium, which is an hour's walk from the nearest railway station and has few access roads, is another place where an early start and calm, Zen-like spirit are recommended.

Meeting point...Saitama city centre, where many England fans are expected to congregate before the match

Owen Hargreaves

Bayern's young England midfielder talks to Chris Hamley

You've just turned 20, but you've already won the Champions League, the World Club Cup, and the Bundesliga. What's left for you in football?
A few things. I've played just 40 competitive games for Bayern; I could happily see that total rise. My goal is to play in every game, and get more and more experience. That's what I'm working towards.

What was it like to arrive as a 16-year-old in a new country and a completely new culture?
It wasn't at all easy, but I wanted to become a footballer. That wouldn't have been easy in Canada. I took a lot of risks – and they've all come off.

Who was your role model as a kid?
Actually, it was Michael Jordan. He's a great sportsman, a model athlete, and for a long time he was head and shoulders above the rest in his sport. I'm pleased he got back on top of his game so quickly after his comeback.

Your father is English, your mother Welsh, you were born in Canada, and you play your football in Germany. Why have you chosen to play for England, even though you were qualified for all these countries?
Most of my family come from Great Britain, both my brothers were born there. I have English blood. That's a good reason. And on the other hand, England have one of the best teams in the world, and it's highly motivating to be comparing yourself with the world's best players.

Did you ever seriously consider playing for Germany?
No, never. That was just a story in the press.

You are one of the very few members of the England squad who plays abroad. Is it more difficult to get noticed?
It certainly is. I'm not playing in front of the national coach every week, so it's good that I get to appear in the Champions League with Bayern. Our match in Manchester is naturally extremely important for me. Mr Eriksson has a chance to take a close look at me.

Let's assume you were with Stuttgart or Hamburg rather than Bayern. It would be a lot more difficult to get into the England side, wouldn't it?
Yes, indeed, because I wouldn't be playing in European competition. As I'm not in the Premier League, it's extremely important for me to play on the European stage, just to get myself noticed, to show what I can do.

You won your first England cap against Holland, but played completely out of position. You took a fair amount of stick from the media. Were you happy with your performance?
I was really looking forward to the match, it was a fantastic experience. But everything gets seen in a negative light when the team loses. My own performance was hardly the best, but given that it was my first game, it was OK. If you have to play out of position, you try to fit in and do the job the coach has given you to do. Mr Eriksson said to me after the game he was happy with me and I shouldn't worry myself about it. That was all that mattered.

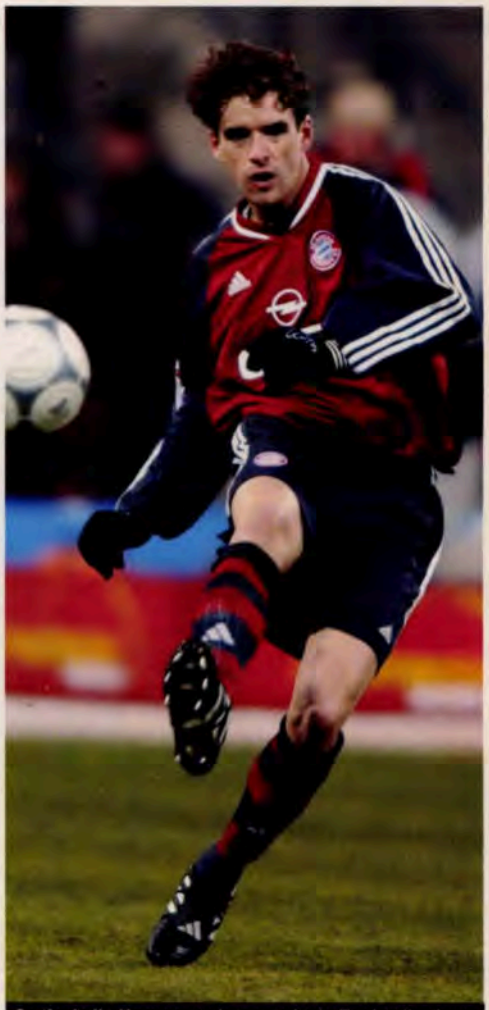
As a new boy, how did you get on with the established players like David Beckham?
It went very well. I never thought the players would be so relaxed with each other. David Beckham, as captain, was especially friendly towards me, and he told me that if I had questions or problems, I should come to him at any time. Overall, the togetherness of the squad surprised me a lot.

Then you went on to beat Germany 5-1. How was it coming back to Bayern afterwards, having to meet up again with Oliver Kahn, Carsten Jancker and Thomas Linke, three of the Germans in the game?
Actually, it was completely normal. The lads weren't exactly happy about it, of course, but they got over it pretty quickly.

Who'll get furthest in the World Cup?
England, of course. I'm hoping we'll make it through to the Final and even win that, too. The team definitely has the potential.

What's the biggest difference between football in Germany and in England?
English football is far quicker. The fans play a big role, they're always getting behind the players. You always have to give everything, and the game is physically tough.

What do you see as your strengths and weaknesses?
One strength is my flexibility – I can play in a number of positions. I use my speed to outrun opponents and win the ball. I'm generally strong in the challenge. I have to get a lot better in front of goal; I haven't scored a single goal up to now. But that will come at some point.


On the ball...Hargreaves hopes to be in England's plans

Your playing style is typically German – full of fight, plenty of running, a lot of short, safe passes, you stay cool under pressure. Is this your natural game, or have Bayern defined it for you?
I believe, wherever you are, you adapt the way you play to what's around you. But I'm always trying to develop my game. I try to learn something new every day, both here in Munich and on international duty.

The headlines in England recently have been dominated by professional footballers getting into trouble off the field. What's your view?
Every player has an individual responsibility for his behaviour. Of course, there's nothing stopping you going out of an evening and having fun, but you've always got to be on your guard because everything you do is permanently in the public gaze. You just have to learn to behave yourself. But I've never played in England and I'm not in a position to pass judgment.

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Rolando Fonseca

Costa Rica's all-time leading scorer

WHEN Rolando Fonseca made his debut with Deportivo Saprissa a day before his 17th birthday, great expectations were born. After all, it isn't every day that Costa Rica's most popular team puts a player so young on the pitch.

Some 10 seasons have passed since then, and while Fonseca still has lots of football ahead of him, he has already gone a long way towards fulfilling those early expectations.

During that time, Fonseca has scored an impressive 210 goals.

Costa Rica's national side have also been major beneficiaries. The forward has netted a record 39 goals for the Ticos, 10 of which came in the qualifiers for this World Cup.

Perhaps what makes Fonseca most dangerous is his versatility. He packs a powerful shot in both feet and while not very tall at 1.77m (5ft 10in), few would doubt his ability in the air after watching him outjump a big Honduran defender to head home during one World Cup qualifier. Devastating free-kicks are also part of Fonseca's repertoire, as evidenced by the effort he produced for Costa Rica's first goal in their historic win over Mexico in Mexico City.

But Fonseca has been more than just a goalscorer. He's also a winner, having won League titles with Costa Rican sides Saprissa (twice) and Alajuelense, Mexico's Pachuca and Guatemala's Comunicaciones (twice). With the national side, he has won two Central American championships.

One of the factors that led to Costa Rica's qualification was the new-found unselfishness of their players. But for Fonseca it was anything but new. While at Pachuca, he was asked to play as a defensive midfielder and did so without complaint. For the national side, he has played as a creative midfielder, again far from his best position, but a role he is willing to fill for the good of the team.

Fonseca still has unfinished business. At 27, and after several failed attempts to move to Europe, including a short trial with Derby in England, time is running out. Korea/Japan may be his last chance to convince European clubs he's worth a gamble. Also, not content with being Costa Rica's all-time leading scorer, the 75-times capped striker is poised to overtake soon-to-retire Hernan Medford and become the first Tico to reach 100.

Costa Rica are one of the least favoured of the 32 finalists, but while their success is not entirely dependent on Fonseca, his form will go a long way towards determining his team's fate.

Greg Reeser

Fact file

Club La Piedad (Mex)
Country Costa Rica
Born June 6, 1974
Previous clubs Saprissa, Pachuca (Mex), Independiente Medellin (Col), Alajuelense, Comunicaciones (Gtm)
International caps 75 (39 goals)

Claudio Reyna

America's richest and most successful export

UNITED STATES coach Bruce Arena has a word for the critics of Claudio Reyna. He calls them idiots.

To address the detractors more diplomatically, they've placed unreasonable expectations on America's most talented player. Reyna was anointed US soccer's saviour more than a decade ago, when as a teenager he displayed skills previously unseen in an American player.

Pencilled in by coach Bora Milutinovic to start for the national team in the 1994 World Cup, 20-year-old Reyna was sidelined with a hamstring injury. He then joined Germany's Bayer Leverkusen before moving to Wolfsburg, becoming captain at 24.

Before the 1998 World Cup, US coach Steve Sampson stressed: "Claudio is the man. He must get the ball. If you don't like it, you can find a different team." The game plan wasn't lost on Germany, who sent Jens Jeremies out to deliver some crunching tackles on Reyna. America's other opponents took note and they went home with three defeats out of three.

Despite this, Reyna says he hasn't felt the pressure of being labelled the 'saviour' of US soccer. "I never listened, never bothered with it," he said. But America's most successful – and wealthiest – soccer export continued to raise expectations. In 1998, with 64 Bundesliga appearances under his belt, Reyna moved to Rangers. He helped them to two League titles, a Scottish Cup and played 25 times in Europe before joining Sunderland for £4.5million – a record for an American.

Although US fans figured Reyna would turn the national team into world-beaters, no one could take advantage of his accurate passes, and much of his midfield work was dedicated to defence. It took his absence – he missed half the 10 final-round qualifying games because of injury and suspension – to emphasise his worth to the team, whose three defeats came without him. When Reyna returned, he set up both goals in the 2-1 win over Jamaica that clinched their place at the World Cup. "Claudio's the leader of this team, and we rally behind him," says fellow midfielder Chris Armas.

Reyna insists: "We have enough quality players to create problems." That would once have been a dubious claim, when only Reyna would bring purposeful creativity to the team. But he will line up in Korea next to the latest 'saviour', 19-year-old Landon Donovan. Finally, he'll have a partner to share the burden.

Mike Woitalla

Fact file

Club Sunderland (Eng)
Country United States
Born July 20, 1973, in Livingston, New Jersey
Previous clubs Bayer Leverkusen (Ger), Wolfsburg (Ger), Rangers (Sco)
International debut January 1994, v Norway
International caps 84 (8 goals)
Honours Gold Cup 2002; Scottish League 1999, 2000; Scottish Cup 2000

SUBSCRIBE TO WORLD SOCCER

SAVE MORE THAN 30%

A massive World Cup saving equivalent to:

FREE The World Cup Collectors' Issue (out 10 May 2002)*

PLUS

FREE 3 regular issues of World Soccer

Subscribe today and enjoy these great benefits:

- Save over 30% on the standard subscription price
- Never miss an issue of the best international football magazine
- Guaranteed delivery of every issue direct to your door – wherever you live in the world!
- Avoid paying extra for double sized World Cup Collectors' Issue
- Beat the summer price rise

* We must receive your order by 28th February 2002 to guarantee you will receive the double sized World Cup Collectors' Issue as part of your subscription.

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER IMMEDIATELY CALL OUR HOTLINE NUMBER OR COMPLETE THE COUPON BELOW

+44(0)1622 778 778

Open 7 days 9am to 9pm (UK time). Please quote code: 34J

Or subscribe online* at: www.worldsoccer.com

If ordering from the US, you can call toll-free on

888-313-5528

(lines open Mon–Fri 9am–8pm, Sat 9am–4pm EST)

WORLD SOCCER Subscription Rates (over 30% off)

Postal Region	Full 1 year price	You pay	Full 2 year price	You pay
UK First Class	£35.10	£24.30	£70.20	£48.60
USA Excellent value for money Direct Entry 5-12 days	$82.50	$57.12	$165.00	$114.23
Europe Priority 3-5 days	£43.00	£29.77	£86.00	£59.54
Aus/Far East Priority 5-7 days	£58.30	£40.36	£116.60	£80.72
Rest of World Priority 5-7 days	£54.00	£37.38	£108.00	£74.77

YES! I would like to take out a subscription to World Soccer for:

☐ 2 years (26 issues) *See price grid above.*

☐ 1 year (13 issues) *See price grid above.*

Complete this coupon and send with your payment to:

World Soccer Subscriptions, PO Box 272, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3FS, UK (Please attach correct postage)

Or for USA only:

World Soccer Subscriptions, c/o Mercury International, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001 (Please attach correct postage)

YOUR DETAILS:

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: Forename:

Surname:

Address:

Post/Zipcode:

Country/State:

Home Tel. No. (inc. country/area code):

E-mail:

Date of Birth: D D M M Y Y Y Y

PAYMENT DETAILS:

I enclose a cheque/international money order for £/$ _____ made payable to IPC Media Ltd.

Or please debit my ☐ Amex ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch (UK only)

Account No.: Switch only

Expiry Date: / Card Issue No: (Switch Only)

Signature: Date:

(I am over 18)

Offer open to new subscribers only. We must receive your order by 28th February 2002 in order for the World Cup Collectors' Issue to be included in your subscription. Please allow up to 6 weeks for delivery of your first subscripton issue (up to 8 weeks for overseas orders). Offer closes 28th February 2002. Prices are discounted from the full subscription rates advertised in each publication. **For enquiries, please call +44 (0)1444 475 675, or email: ipcsubs@qss-uk.com**

IPC Media Limited, publisher of World Soccer and IPC Electric Limited ("IPC") will collect your personal information to process your order and to gain a better understanding of our magazine readership. We may send you details on our magazines and services. Please tick here if you prefer not to hear from IPC. ☐ We may pass your details to other reputable companies whose products and services may be of interest to you. Please tick here if you prefer not to receive such offers. ☐

WORLD SOCCER 34J

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Stig Tofting

No regrets for Denmark's rebel with a cause

STIG TOFTING has become one of the most recognisable characters in European football with his crewcut hair, his squat, barrel-chested physique, his Rambo-like determination, and, of course, his tattoos. These cover his body, and the one that sums him up perfectly is the message: No Regrets.

That philosophy has carried Tofting through the maelstrom of his life, from the time he was left orphaned as a young working-class boy in Denmark when both his parents died in a tragic accident. Tofting was brought up by his grandmother and became friendly with the local Hell's Angels gang in the city of Aarhus.

He began work as a fork-lift driver, but was given a passport to fame through a natural ability at soccer which was fostered by the AGF Aarhus club.

Tofting quickly became a folk-hero to the AGF fans, and today has that status across Denmark for his never-say-die approach to every match at every level. This is a guy who never shirks a tackle and who runs his heart out for 90 minutes. There is skill and passing ability, too, of course; enough to have won him a move to the Bundesliga (Duisburg and Hamburg) and now the Premiership, with Bolton.

But it has not been an easy path in football for Tofting. He left AGF to join rival Danish superclub OB Odense, but was sacked by them because he kept criticising the coach, Roald Poulsen. The fans sided with Tofting, but the club didn't.

Back he went to AGF to be 'rescued' for a second time before heading off to the relative riches of the Bundesliga. Nevertheless, his nature hasn't changed, much to the joy of the Danish public, to whom he is almost a Robin Hood figure, standing up for the rights of the little man in society.

Think that's too strong? Well, last year Tofting wanted to open a cafe in Aarhus. The mayor refused permission, and everyone knew the real reason – the footballer's connection with his Hell's Angels pals. They remain his friends, and no regrets.

Tofting's response was to consider running in the local city elections as an independent candidate to fight his corner. He was persuaded to drop the idea, but public support was so high that the mayor was voted out anyway and his successor says he is backing the Tofting cafe.

"I want to stand up for the rights of the little man," said Tofting at the time. "We should not be dictated to." No wonder the Danish media reckon he speaks the language of the people.

He is a rebel, but a rebel with a cause. No one is more dedicated to training and soccer than the 32-year-old, who has formed a solid central midfield partnership with Thomas Gravesen in the Danish national side.

Tofting's spirit and his fight are qualities highly regarded by Denmark coach Morten Olsen, who must now wait to see if Tofting can establish himself at Bolton. This season, Tofting fell from favour with Kurt Jara at Hamburg, but Bolton's Sam Allardyce, who described his latest signing as a "pocket battleship", is prepared to give the player the benefit of the doubt.

Few would bet against Tofting winning his latest battle. And whatever happens, you can bet his message will be straightforward: No regrets.

Jim Holden

Fact file

Club Bolton (Eng)
Country Denmark
Born August 14, 1969, in Aarhus
Previous clubs AGF Aarhus, OB Odense, AGF Aarhus, Duisburg (Ger), Hamburg (Ger)
International debut January 1993, v United States
International caps 34 (2 goals)
Honours Danish Cup 1996 (AGF)

Fading reputation...Gaizka Mendieta

Gaizka Mendieta

Crisis of confidence for Spain's midfield inspiration

JUST last summer, Gaizka Mendieta would have been in most experts' projected squad of likely World Cup heroes. He had bossed Spain's midfield at Euro 2000 and led Valencia to successive Champions League Finals, while Lazio and Real Madrid headed the queue of clubs seeking his services.

Now, after just over six months with the Serie A club, Mendieta's footballing reputation has slid almost out of sight, and he holds his place in the Spain squad only on the strength of his record, not on current value.

Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao both enquired about taking him back to Spain on loan for the rest of the season. Bilbao had its particular attractions because Mendieta was born in the Basque capital.

As a boy, Mendieta had moved south with his family and thus his teenage talent went unnoticed by Athletic. Instead, the youngster built his footballing career on the strength of an outstanding 1991-92 season in the Spanish Second Division with Castellon when he was still barely 18.

Valencia signed him at the end of term and thus began a fruitful nine-year partnership. Mendieta was at his most effective under the coaching guidance of Argentinian Hector Cuper, who drilled Valencia into an aggressive, hard-working unit for which Mendieta, drifting wide down the wings, could provide the creative input.

Cuper's well-previewed departure last summer for Internazionale was Mendieta's cue to leave as well. At first, Real Madrid were favourites to sign him. But the club's negotiators also had their eyes on the world record purchase of Zinedine Zidane and, while thus d[illegible]d, allowed Lazio to scoop t[illegible] Mendieta, paying £27million.

[illegible] Spain for Italy was a major gamble, [illegible] few Spaniards had adjusted we[illegible] to the tactically restrictive world of Serie A. Lazio coach Dino Zoff expected Mendieta to step into the gifted tracks left by Manchester United-bound Juan Sebastian Veron. But it didn't work out that way.

Mendieta struggled, Lazio struggled – and Zoff was replaced as coach in mid-term by Alberto Zaccheroni. His first team change was to drop Mendieta…after which, significantly, results began to improve a little.

The future for Mendieta is uncertain. He may not even make Spain's World Cup squad and his market value has plummeted. Lazio may recoup only half the £20million they paid in transfer and signing-on fees.

Battler...Stig Tofting

Mendieta insists he has no regrets, saying: "Everything has changed since Zaccheroni took over at Lazio but I never look back. What's the point? I have to look ahead."

The view is not reassuring. The next three months offer the most expensive Spanish footballer of all time only the greatest challenge of his career...again.

Keir Radnedge

Fact file

Club Lazio (Ita)
Country Spain
Born March 27, 1974, in Bilbao
Previous clubs Castellon, Valencia
International debut March 1999, v Austria
International caps 30 (7 goals)
Honours Spanish Cup 1999

Shinji Ono

Dutch footballing lessons for Japan's great hope

ONE of the reasons Japan are expected to go further in their co-hosted World Cup finals than South Korea is down to the extra European experience among their playing squad.

Four times as many Japanese players have found their way to Europe as Koreans, and while Italy-based Hidetoshi Nakata is the most famous, he is being challenged in the popularity stakes. One of the leading pursuers is attacking midfielder Shinji Ono, now at Feyenoord in Holland.

The Ono circus is big business. More than 30 Japanese journalists have followed Ono since his arrival in Dutch football last summer. The player and his girlfriend are supported by their own secretaries, assistants and translators.

Language is the key. Ono says: "It is difficult enough coming into a better class of football without having to struggle with the language. But the positive side is the excitement of learning about a new country and meeting so many outstanding footballers."

Ono was encouraged to move to Europe by Japan's national coach, Frenchman Philippe Troussier. But he has not found the transition easy.

"I cannot honestly say how much I have improved so far," says Ono. "I have not had too many opportunities to play in my favourite role in the centre of midfield."

Ono's hero was and is Diego Maradona. "He inspired my interest in football. Very quickly it changed from being an interest into a passion and all I wanted to do was play football, even though baseball is the big team sport in Japan."

When the time came to turn professional, in December 1997, Ono found every one of the 16 clubs in the J.League were offering a contract. He chose Urawa Red Diamonds and rocketed to national and international notice.

At the end of his first season he was voted Footballer of the Year and, in April 1999, he captained Japan's youngsters to runners-up spot at the World Youth Cup in Nigeria.

Borussia Dortmund were the first European club to make him an offer, but he preferred to sign for Feyenoord "because I thought a less physical sort of game would suit me better. Like all the Japanese I am on the small side in build and, at first, every tackle was tough. I am still getting used to that."

Feyenoord are cautiously happy with the progress Ono has made. Coach Bert Van Marwijk says: "He is young but he is a quick learner. The only thing he must learn is to be a little less hesitant and to commit himself more, physically. One good thing – he doesn't like taking the easy option of passing back to his defenders when under pressure."

> 'One of the positive things about coming to Holland is meeting so many outstanding footballers'

Ono's priority this year, however, is less with Feyenoord and more with Japan at 'their' World Cup.

"We have Belgium, Russia and Tunisia in our group and the games will all be hard. But the event will be fantastic – especially for football in Japan."

Keir Radnedge

Fact file

Club Feyenoord (Hol)
Country Japan
Born September 27, 1979, in Numazu
Previous clubs Urawa Red Diamonds
International caps 24 (2 goals)

Gone Dutch...Shinji Ono

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Tehran scare...Shay Given

Shay Given

Boy from Donegal who carries Irish hopes in the Far East

SHAY GIVEN'S contribution to the Republic of Ireland's World Cup hopes this summer cannot be underestimated. His superlative displays against Iran in last November's play-offs were typical of his form this season and instrumental in securing his country's third finals appearance in four attempts.

Yet Given admits he was happy just to leave Tehran's 120,000-capacity Azadi stadium in one piece.

He explains: "As I warmed up behind the goal with my fellow keepers Dean Kiely and Alan Kelly, smoke bombs were going off all around us. It wasn't until we got back to the dressing-room that we discovered that the devices were in fact live grenades. When the smoke had cleared, you could see craters left in the ground, so we were very lucky not to be hurt.

"We were warned before boarding the plane at Dublin that it would be a tough environment, but it was far worse than I had anticipated.

"When we got off the plane, the fans seemed more intent on getting autographs, but that all changed on the day of the match. They hurled abuse at us, plenty of rotten fruit and plastic bottles, so it took a strong character to get through it."

Given's double saves from Ali Karimi and Karim Bagheri are now part of Irish folklore and his celebrations at the final whistle were unrivalled. "I didn't care where I was, it was a tremendous feeling to know that I would be playing in the World Cup finals," he said.

"Not many people gave us a chance at the start of qualifying but to have knocked out Holland, finish second to Portugal and remain unbeaten in the group was a fantastic achievement.

"Roy Keane apart, there are no superstars, but our manager, Mick McCarthy, has built up a squad and a team spirit over the past five years which is very, very close. Technically we might not be the best in Europe, but few can match us for hard work and determination, and I'm sure plenty of sides will be wary of us this summer."

As the side embarked on a 'colourful' journey home, one of County Donegal's favourite sons was left to receive the adulation of a nation, and not for the first time, to count his blessings. Certainly Given's career to date has been littered with peaks and troughs.

Having served an apprenticeship at Celtic, he made his League bow at Blackburn Rovers but failed to supplant Tim Flowers as first choice. He followed his mentor, Kenny Dalglish, to Newcastle, but when Dalglish was replaced by Ruud Gullit, his fortunes changed again. Only in the past year, under Bobby Robson, has Given won his place back.

"Bobby has brought the players back together," he said. "At 68, he doesn't need all the aggravation but

Jerzy Dudek

Poland's down-to-earth hero who is already at home in Liverpool

IN THE space of three days late last summer, Poland goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek's career changed for ever.

In late August, just hours before the Champions League deadline, he became the most expensive Polish player in history when he signed for Liverpool for £4.9million from Feyenoord. Two days later, Dudek performed heroics as Poland beat Norway to qualify for their first World Cup finals since 1986.

"It was an exceptionally tough time for me," he recalls. "I had just signed for Liverpool but I had to try to concentrate on Poland's upcoming match. If I had made any mistakes, the Polish fans would have said that my personal business had been distracting me from national team business.

"It wasn't true, of course. But it was only after we had won and qualified for the World Cup finals that I realised how stressful the situation had been. I felt extremely tired, but at the same time unbelievably happy."

Few people had held out much hope of Poland qualifying. "It was very difficult to be optimistic before the qualifiers," says Dudek. "Poland had not played in the World Cup finals for 15 years. But our coach, Jerzy Engel, told us we were going to do something about this. He created a fantastic atmosphere in the team. Thanks to him we really did something special, and now we're back in the World Cup.

"Of course, we are not favourites. It is impossible to compare us with France, for example. But that's good. I prefer us to be seen as underdogs. It will be much easier to spring a surprise if the expectations are not very high."

In the meantime Dudek can concentrate on his career with Liverpool, a team he says he supported as a boy. Despite the obvious language barrier, Dudek has had few problems settling in at Anfield. "I've only had to concentrate on learning two words," he says. "I shout out 'away', if I want defenders to clear a ball, and 'keeper', when I decide to catch it.

"I thought it would be difficult to play in a team with so many stars. But I soon realised they are normal people, pleasant and friendly, and that has helped me a lot."

Who will win the Premier League title race? "I couldn't tell you," he says. "Five or six teams have a chance. In theory, if you play against teams at the bottom, it should be easier to win. But not in England! Those kind of games are even more difficult for us."

However Dudek's season ends, he has already made a lot of friends in Liverpool, a working-class city where he feels at home. "I have so much respect for hard work," he says. "I grew up in Knurow, a little mining town. I felt very much at home in Rotterdam, where people are used to working hard, and now I think the same about Liverpool."

Dariusz Kurowski

Fact file

Club Liverpool (Eng)
Country Poland
Born March 23, 1973, in Rybnik
Previous clubs Concordia Knurow, Sokol Tychy, Feyenoord (Hol)
International debut February 1998, v Israel
International caps 19
Honours Dutch League 1999

he does it for his love of Newcastle. His enthusiasm is infectious, he's responsible for the way things have turned around for me, and he has the utmost respect and backing of us all."

An early contender for Newcastle's Player of the Year, Given also believes his accomplished performances are being helped by the ever-improving standard of football in the Premiership.

"There's no secret formula," he insists. "I know I've got the ability, but the high standard of opposition in the Premiership is also bringing the best out of me. Every week you face top-class strikers, whether it's a team at the top or the bottom, so you are always on your toes as a goalkeeper."

His thoughts now turn to the World Cup, where, as a relative unknown outside the British Isles, he will be looking forward to excelling himself on the very highest stage.

"I remember watching Ireland reach the quarter-finals in 1990 and know how proud it made the country. Now it will be my turn to make them proud, and for Ireland to make up for missing the 1998 finals in France.

"We certainly haven't come to make up the numbers, and our qualifying form suggests that won't be the case. I'm looking to make the second round at least, but who knows what will happen? The World Cup always sees a surprise country go far, and there's no reason it can't be us."

Luke Nicoli

Fact file

Club Newcastle (Eng)
Country Republic of Ireland
Born April 20, 1976, in Lifford
Previous clubs Celtic (Sco), Blackburn (Eng)
International debut April 1996, v Czech Republic
International caps 36
Honours English Premier League 1995 (Blackburn)

Happy underdog...Dudek believes Poland are capable of ruffling fancied teams

Hans Vonk

Dutchman who has won over South Africa's doubters

HANS VONK owes his international career to the South African soccer publication *Kick Off*, which uncovered the fact he had been born in the country and flagged up his availability long before any of the coaching staff had ever got to hear about him.

Vonk was born in Alberton, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, but left while still a toddler with his Dutch parents, who had been working in the country for a short while. Attention was first drawn to the giant goalkeeper as far back as 1996, but the then South Africa coach Clive Barker laughed off the idea. But when Frenchman Philippe Troussier took over Bafana Bafana before the 1998 World Cup, he was quick to call up the Heerenveen goalkeeper, already established among the leading custodians in the Dutch League.

Vonk got a back-door invitation to France 98 and did not hesitate to take it. However, he has had to contend with some ill-timed international commitments since then, not all of them in tune with his ambitions with Heerenveen.

At the African Nations Cup finals in Ghana and Nigeria two years ago he sat on the bench for all but one game. This was a bizarre selection decision by coach Trott Moloto, who seemed intent on punishing the quietly-spoken Vonk for not being available for all of the qualifying matches ahead of the finals.

Vonk bit his tongue and stayed clear of controversy, particularly because sectors of the South African media were keen to question his 'national' loyalty. He has struggled to win over the fans but has mostly been a victim of some poor defending.

New coach Carlos Queiroz has recognised his competence, and barring injury or loss of form he will go to the Far East as South Africa's first-choice goalkeeper.

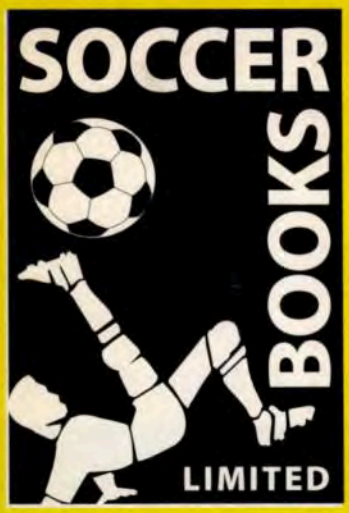
Vonk's club career started at Dutch side VV Woudrichem but it was at RKC Waalwijk that he first came to prominence. He has since been a major factor in the rise to prominence of another provincial club, Heerenveen. The team finished runners-up in the Dutch League in 1999-2000, allowing Vonk some invaluable Champions League experience last season.

Mark Gleeson

Late call...Vonk had to wait for his chance

Fact file

Club Heerenveen (Hol)
Country South Africa
Born January 30, 1970, in Alberton
Previous clubs VV Woudrichem (Hol), RKC Waalwijk (Hol)
International debut May 1998, v Zambia
International caps 21



Web Site – http://www.soccer-books.co.uk e-mail – info@soccer-books.co.uk

'LESS THAN HALF-PRICE SALE' – PART ONE

Sale Ends 30th April 2002

Web Site – http://www.soccer-books.co.uk e-mail – info@soccer-books.co.uk

THE WORLD CUP – A COMIC BOOK HISTORY

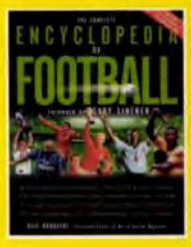
A peculiar book which tells the story of the World Cup using comic-style cartoons. Covers 1930 to 1990 and includes a preview of USA 1994.

Softback Sale Price £2.99
(Save £4.00)
Postage Rate 'B'

UP FOR THE CUP!

A softback, 144-page review of British clubs in European competition since 1955. Published in 1996.

Softback Sale Price £3.00
(Save £4.99)
Postage Rate 'B'



THE COMPLETE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOOTBALL

A massive encyclopedia of World Football by Keir Radnedge, editor of *World Soccer Magazine*.

Hardback Sale Price £14.95
(Save £15.00)
Postage Rate 'E'

SOCCER – THE WORLD CUP 1930-1998

The 256-page 4th edition definitive history of the FIFA World Cup. Contains write-ups of every Final Series, every Finals match played in a country-by-country statistical section and every qualifying result.

Hardback Sale Price £7.00
(Save £ 7.95)
Postage Rate 'C'

SOCCER: THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1958-96

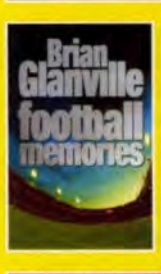
A 192-page definitive history of the European Nations' Championship with write-ups of each series to 1996, all qualifying results and scorers and a full country-by-country record of games played.

Hardback Sale Price £5.00
(Save £6.95)
Postage Rate 'B'

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES 1888-2001

This 4th edition contains every Football & F.A. Premier League final table, every Scottish League table plus Semi-Final and Final results and info. for the English and Scottish F.A. and League Cup competitions.

Softback Sale Price £4.00
(Save £4.99)
Postage Rate 'B'



BRIAN GLANVILLE – FOOTBALL MEMORIES

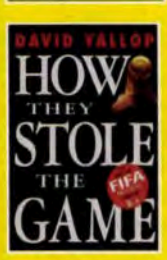
The memoirs of Brian Glanville containing numerous anecdotes and football stories from his 50 years in sports journalism.

Hardback Sale Price £8.49
(Save £8.50)
Postage Rate 'C'

RED DRAGONS IN EUROPE – A COMPLETE RECORD

An excellent book with full statistical information and a match report of every game Welsh club sides have played in European competition.

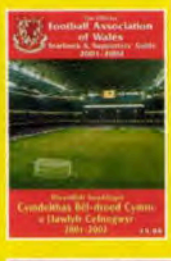
Hardback Sale Price £7.00
(Save £7.99)
Postage Rate 'B'



HOW THEY STOLE THE GAME

This fascinating book tells the history of FIFA paying particular attention to the allegations of corruption which surrounded João Havelange during his 24-year presidency of FIFA.

Hardback Sale Price £8.00
(Save £8.99)
Postage Rate 'C'



THE OFFICIAL F.A. OF WALES YEARBOOK & SUPPORTERS' GUIDE 2001-2002

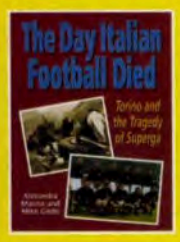
This book contains full 2000-2001 statistics for League of Wales clubs + final league tables and cup results for other Welsh leagues. Supporters' Guide information is included for clubs in the 3 top Leagues.

Softback Sale Price £2.50
(Save £3.49) Postage Rate 'A'

THE SUPPORTERS' GUIDE TO PREMIER & FOOTBALL LEAGUE CLUBS 2002

The 18th edition of this guide contains updated info for the 92 Premier and Football League Clubs and also contains 2000/2001 results & tables together with England International statistics.

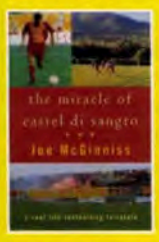
Softback Sale Price £2.50
(Save £3.49)
Postage Rate 'A'



THE DAY ITALIAN FOOTBALL DIED – TORINO AND THE SUPERGA TRAGEDY

The story of the events leading up to and the aftermath of the Superga air disaster in 1949 in which 31 people were killed including the entire Torino team as well as the reserves, training staff and directors.

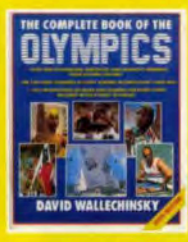
Hardback Sale Price £7.49
(Save £7.50)
Postage Rate 'C'



THE MIRACLE OF CASTEL DI SANGRO – A REAL LIFE FOOTBALLING FAIRYTALE

The remarkable story of how the football team of the tiny village of Castel di Sangro (population: 5,000) managed to get promoted and stay in the Italian Serie B.

Hardback Sale Price £8.99
(Save £9.00)
Postage Rate 'C'



THE COMPLETE BOOK OF THE OLYMPICS

A statistical book which contains the result of every competition throughout the history of the Summer Olympics up to and including the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Softback Sale Price £7.49
(Save £7.50)
Postage Rate 'D'

THE SUPPORTERS' GUIDE TO SCOTTISH FOOTBALL 2002

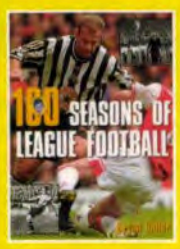
The 10th edition has updated information for Scottish League Highland League and East of Scotland League clubs and also includes statistics for the 2000/2001 season.

Softback Sale Price £2.50
(Save £3.49)
Postage Rate 'A'

4-2

A look at the famous English victory in the 1966 World Cup Final in the context of the times.

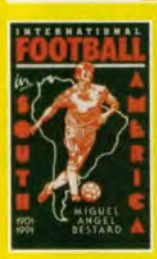
Hardback Sale Price £8.49
(Save £8.50)
Postage Rate 'C'



100 SEASONS OF LEAGUE FOOTBALL

The 1998-99 Season was the 100th season of League football in England. This massive book is full of photos and contains a history of the 100 Seasons of League Football from 1888-1998.

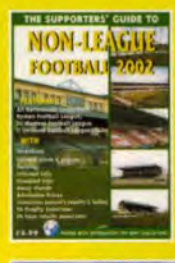
Hardback Sale Price £9.49
(Save £9.50)
Postage Rate 'E'



INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL IN SOUTH AMERICA 1901-1991

This book contains a full country-by-country record of every international game played by a South American country to 1991.

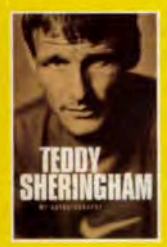
Hardback Sale Price £2.50
(Save £7.49)
Postage Rate 'B'



THE SUPPORTERS' GUIDE TO NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL 2002

The 10th edition has updated info for the top Non-League clubs and includes 2000/01 Season results, tables, photos, Cup competition results.

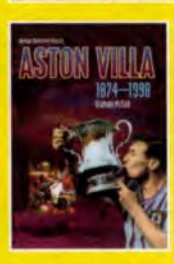
Softback Sale Price £2.50
(Save £3.49)
Postage Rate 'A'



TEDDY SHERINGHAM – MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The autobiography of Manchester United and England striker Teddy Sheringham which also tells of his experiences at other clubs including Spurs and Nottingham Forest.

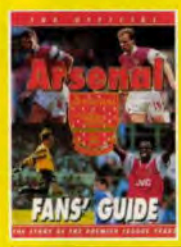
Hardback Sale Price £8.49
(Save £8.50)
Postage Rate 'C'



HAMLYN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF ASTON VILLA 1874-1998

A large-sized illustrated history of Aston Villa published by Hamlyn.

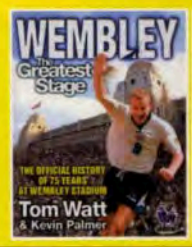
Hardback Sale Price £8.00
(Save £9.99)
Postage Rate 'D'



THE OFFICIAL ARSENAL FANS' GUIDE

A full-colour fans' guide for Arsenal which includes a brief history and reviews the club's years in the Premiership. Published in 1997.

Hardback Sale Price £5.99
(Save £7.00)
Postage Rate 'C'



WEMBLEY – THE GREATEST STAGE

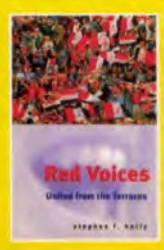
The Official History of the first 75 years of Wembley Stadium is illustrated with full colour.

Hardback Sale Price £9.50
(Save £10.50)
Postage Rate 'D'

SCHMEICHEL – THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The autobiography of Peter Schmeichel which tells of his life and career at Brondby, Manchester United and also playing for Denmark.

Hardback Sale Price £8.49
(Save £8.50)
Postage Rate 'C'



RED VOICES – UNITED FROM THE TERRACES

A collection of stories about Manchester United over the years from former players, managers, backroom staff and supporters.

Hardback Sale Price £8.99
(Save £9.00)
Postage Rate 'C'

THE INTERNATIONAL LINE-UPS & STATISTICS SERIES

All 26 titles in this series are priced £2.95 each – Postage Rate 'A'

Argentina 1902-1970 • Argentina 1970-1997 • Australia 1922-1998 • Brazil 1914-1970 Canada 1885-1995 • Colombia 1938-1996 • Chile 1910-1970 • Chile 1971-1998 Ecuador 1938-1997 • Eire 1921-1996 • England 1872-1960 • England 1961-1996 Israel 1934-1995 • New Zealand 1885-1995 • Northern Ireland 1882-1997 Paraguay 1919-1996 • Peru 1927-1996 • Scotland 1872-1960 • Scotland 1961-2000 U.S.A. 1885-1995 • Wales 1876-1960 • Wales 1961-1996 • Olympic Football 1900-1964 Olympic Football 1968-1996 • Copa America 1916-1956 • Copa America 1957-1999

SOCCER BOOKS LIMITED

FROM UK TOURISTS TO SUPER EAGLES – THE HISTORY OF NIGERIA'S FOOTBALL TEAM
A history of Nigeria's Super Eagles which includes line-ups of every full international played, brief biographies of the 390 players to appear for the National team and other facts and figures.
Hardback Price £14.99 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

A-Z DEL FÚTBOL EUROPEO 2001/2002 (I) PREMIUM
Volume 1 of the new edition of this bestseller contains details of over 16,500 players who appear for 580 clubs in the top 10 European leagues. Covers all professional leagues in these 10 countries and, for the first time, includes a full statistical review of the top Division in each of the 10 countries covered.
Softback Price £33.00 ***Postage Rate 'E'***

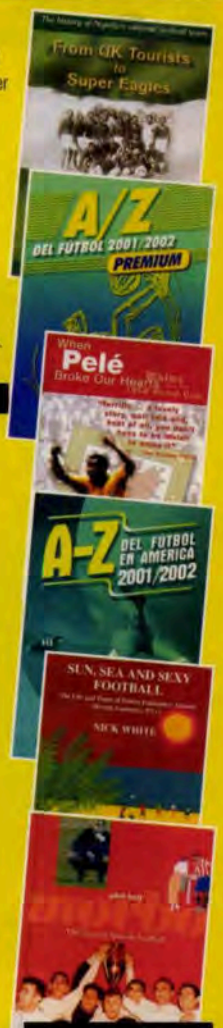
WHEN PELÈ BROKE OUR HEARTS –

WALES AND THE 1958 WORLD CUP
The definitive story of the Welsh team's remarkable 1958 World Cup campaign in which they were narrowly beaten by Brazil after reaching the Quarter-Finals.
Softback Price £14.95 ***Postage Rate 'B'***

A-Z DEL FÚTBOL EN AMÉRICA 2001/2002
The new 5th edition of this bestseller has been enlarged and contains statistical records for 5,500 players playing in 200 clubs in 14 North, South and Central American countries.
Softback Price £27.50 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

SUN, SEA AND SEXY FOOTBALL
22 British footballers, coaches and journalists tell of their experiences working abroad in a series of interesting interviews.
Softback Price £12.97 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

http://www.soccer-books.co.uk e-mail – info@soccer-books.co.uk



WORLD CUP VIDEOS

Available in – **PAL-FORMAT**
(suitable for use in UK, Europe and Australasia)
and **NTSC-FORMAT**
(only available in the USA and Canada)
(All prices include postage – Overseas sent via Airmail)

The following tapes are each priced – £17.99 UK £21.99 Overseas

1970 World Cup Final – Brazil vs Italy
1970 W. Cup Semi-Final – W. Germany vs Italy
1974 World Cup Final – Holland vs W. Germany
1978 World Cup Final – Holland vs Argentina
1978 World Cup Group 4 – Holland vs Scotland
1966 W. Cup Quarter-Final – Portugal vs N. Korea
Also available (same price) –
1960 European Cup Final – Real Madrid vs Eintracht Frankfurt

The following tapes are each priced – £11.99 UK £15.99 Overseas
NTSC-format versions are priced £21.99

1954 WORLD CUP COMPETITION FILM
1958 WORLD CUP COMPETITION FILM
1962 WORLD CUP COMPETITION FILM
'GOAL' – 1966 WORLD CUP COMPETITION FILM

ROTHMANS FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 2001-2002
This 32nd edition of the best-selling football annual contains 976-pages of information about British football.
Softback Price £18.99 Hardback Price £30.00
Postage Rate 'D'

Back issues also available – Postage Rate 'D' :

2000-01	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
2000-01	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£30.00*
'99-2000	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
1995-96	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£30.00*
1993-94	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£27.50*
1992-93	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
1991-92	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*
1990-91	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£18.99*

Earlier used editions are available – send for a list

ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE 2001/ 2002
The new 14th edition of this Italian-language yearbook has been released in softback format for the first time. Contains a vast amount of information about football throughout the world.
Hardback Price £25.00 ***Postage Rate 'D'***

Back Issues also available – Postage Rate 'D' : –

2000-01	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
99-2000	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1998-99	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1997-98	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1996-97	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1995-96	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1994-95	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1992-93	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1989-90	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*

ROCENKA CESKÉHO FOTBALU 2001
An excellent Czech-language yearbook of Czech Football during the 2000/2001 season which is well-illustrated in full-colour and full of both domestic and international statistics.
Softback Price £11.99 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

A JOURNAL OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL HISTORY 1883-2000
An excellent new large-sized chronological history of domestic football throughout Africa. Includes a who's who section and League tables from 1996-2000.
Softback Price £27.50 ***Postage Rate 'D'***

MORBO – THE STORY OF SPANISH FOOTBALL
This English-language history of Spanish football provides a fascinating insight to the history and traditional rivalries.
Hardback Price £14.99 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

ALMANAQUE DO FUTEBOL PAULISTA 2001
A Portuguese-language yearbook which looks at the 2000 Sao Paulo regional championships in Brazil. Includes statistical information and colour illustrations of team badges and strips.
Hardback Price £29.95 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

THE STORY OF THE WORLD CUP
A fully updated edition of this complete history of the World Cup by the noted journalist, Brian Glanville. Published in 2001.
Softback Price £9.99 ***Postage Rate 'B'***

10% DISCOUNT ON ORDERS OVER £60

STATISTICAL HISTORIES

A series of A4-sized, photocopied and slide-bound softback statistical histories with year-by-year League tables, club histories and club information.

Each title is priced £11.99 – Postage Rate 'B'

Albania 1930-2000 **Armenia 1936-2000** **Austria 1911-2000**
Azerbaijan 1928-2000 **Belarus 1922-2000** **Belgium 1895-2000**
Bulgaria 1937-2000 **Cyprus 1934-2000** **Czechoslovakia 1925-1993**
Denmark 1889-2000 **East Germany 1948-1991** **Eire 1921-2000**
England 1871-1932 **England 1932-1965** **England 1965-date**
Estonia 1921-2000 **Finland 1930-2000** **France 1932-2000**
Georgia 1927-2000 **Germany 1892-1927** **Germany 1928-1939**
Germany 1939-1945 **Germany 1992-2000** **Greece 1921-2000**
Holland 1888-1954 **Holland 1955-2000** **Hungary 1901-2000**
Iceland 1912-2000 ***Ireland 1880-1921*** ***Italy 1898-1952***
Italy 1952-2001 ***Kazakhstan 1937-2000*** ***Kyrgyzstan 1947-2000***
Latvia 1921-2000 **Lithuania 1922-2000** **Luxembourg 1909-2000**
Malta 1909-2000 ***N. Ireland 1921-2000*** **Norway 1902-2000**
Poland 1921-2000 **Portugal 1921-2000** **Romania 1921-2000**
Scotland 1890-1945 **Scotland 1947-2000** **Spain 1928-2000**
Sweden 1896-2000 **Switzerland 1897-2000** **Turkey 1922-2000**
U.S.S.R. 1936-1962 **U.S.S.R. 1963-1991** **Wales 1877-2000**
W. Germany 1945-63 **W. Germany 1964-91** **Yugoslavia 1923-2000**
San Marino, Liechtenstein & Faroes **Argentina Prof. League 1931-2000**
Brazil Nat. Champs. 1900-2000 **Chile 1933-2000** **Peru 1926-2000**
Ecuador 1957-2000 **Colombia 1948-2000** **Uruguay 1900-2000**

THE NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 2000/01
The 8th edition of this bestselling guide contains over 400 pages of updated information about both domestic and international football in CONCACAF and South American countries.
Softback Price £27.50 ***Postage Rate 'C'***

Also available – same price and postage –
THE NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 1999/00
THE NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 1998/99
THE NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 1997/98
THE NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 1996/97
THE NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 1995/96
THE NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 1994/95
THE NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 1993/94

ORDERING INFORMATION

DELIVERY – UK 5-14 days • Europe 2-6 weeks • North America 3-5 weeks • Elsewhere up to 14 weeks • Airmail to all parts, 3-14 days.

PAYMENT – We accept: All Major Credit Cards • £ Sterling Cheques, Money Orders, Postal Orders, Switch & Delta debit cards or Cash • US $ Cheques, Drafts and Money Orders • Overseas Currency Banknotes for most countries at current Tourist Selling Rates • Euro (€) Banknotes (We cannot accept € Coins, Drafts or Cheques)

GIRO Account Numbers (Please note that all Giro Accounts are in the name of J.M. & G. Robinson) – U.K. 278-2952 • Denmark 748-9498 • France 3778900 • Holland 311-0730 • Norway 78740702954 • Sweden 5470-50-5

Postage Rate	A	B	C	D	E
UK Postage	£0.75	£1.50	£2.50	£3.50	£4.50
Surface Postage	£1.50	£2.50	£3.50	£6.00	£9.00
Airmail Postage	£3.00	£5.00	£7.00	£11.00	£15.00
	Maximum UK Postage £4.50				

ORDER FORM

(199) **TITLES** — PRICE £ p — POST £ p

Send to:
SOCCER BOOKS LTD. (WORLD SOCCER),
72 ST. PETERS AVENUE,
CLEETHORPES,
DN35 8HU. ENGLAND
Tel: (01472) 696226
(24 Hour Orderline)
Fax: (01472) 698546

FROM:

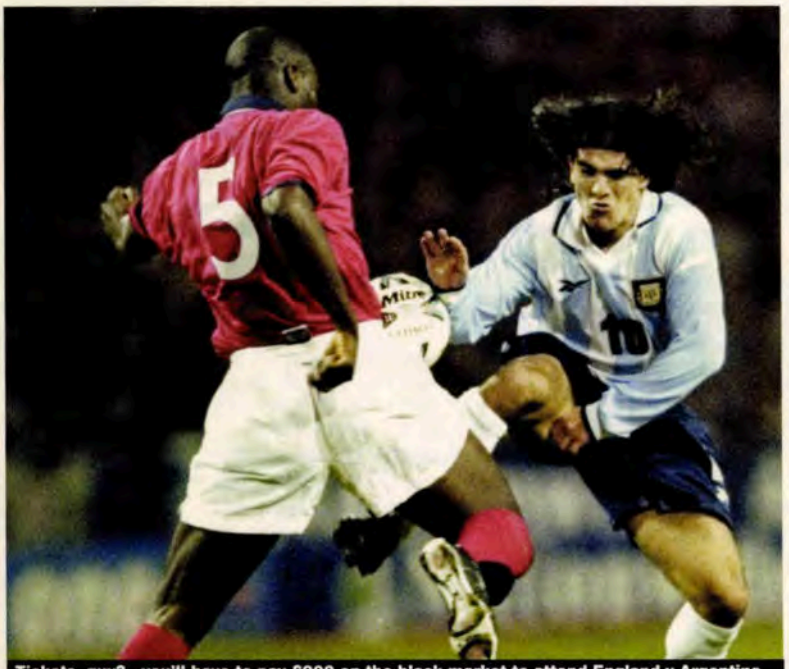
COST	
ORDERS OVER £60 LESS 10%	
SUBTOTAL	
+POST	
TOTAL	

Please make cheques payable to Soccer Books Limited
I enclose cheque/cash/British P.O. for the amount shown
I have paid into Giro Account Number ..... ☐

I wish to pay by Credit Card ☐ Expiry date.....
MasterCard Visa Amex Switch Delta
Card Number : – Switch Issue N° .....

10% DISCOUNT For World Soccer Subscribers Quote your subscription code

Keir Radnedge
COMMENTARY



Tickets, guv?...you'll have to pay £900 on the black market to attend England v Argentina

Touting, the world's second oldest profession

SURPRISE, surprise, internet-friendly ticket touts are trying to charge sky-high prices for seats at the World Cup finals. Top prize right now is £900 for England v Argentina, with 50 per cent to be paid up front.

FIFA insists touts will be unable to supply the volume of tickets demanded – because even FIFA and the local organisers could not manage that. But just as every man has his price, so does every ticket. Jaime Byrom, director of the FIFA ticketing bureau, says: "We are determined to stamp out internet touting." Of course, he won't succeed. Ticket touting is probably the world's second oldest profession. The only hope is that marketing and federation officials won't try to cash in, as a tatty minority did in France four years ago.

Purchasers' names will be printed on tickets, and the organisers claim that each ticket will be checked against a passport or ID card on the way into the stadium.

An empty threat. For one thing, name-checking would cause dangerous crowd congestion. Secondly, one person can legitimately hold a ticket that does not carry his or her name – and I don't need to spell out the circumstances. FIFA would raise greater respect for its anti-touts policy if it launched effective action against the insiders who fuel the market.

My only quarrel with the new smart-card ticketing system is that FIFA is deducting an administration charge from refunds for fans who have booked tickets beyond the progress of their own national team.

But then, perhaps FIFA, after the ISL collapse, needs every yen and won it can lay its hands on.

'FIFA would raise greater respect for its anti-touts policy if it launched effective action against the insiders who fuel the market'

Moving up...Dupont

Bosman lawyer eyes new transfer system

JEAN-LOUIS DUPONT shot to fame as lawyer for Jean-Marc Bosman in the landmark case that ultimately, in December 1995, upset football's legal applecart.

Dupont has since been retained in a number of other keynote cases matching the rights of the individual player against the long-assumed rights of leagues and federations.

His firm clearly plan to be kept busy by the implementation of the new transfer system: they have opened offices opposite the new independent football arbitration tribunal in Zurich.

In fact, no one has a clue how much work will be generated by problems arising from the new system. Even an expert panel at Football Expo in Cannes, which included Dupont and FIFpro general secretary Hans Van Seggelen, would not dare predict the outcome.

Clearly, the situation will become much clearer in August after the bulk of transactions during Europe's summer transfer window. The greatest cause for concern will probably centre on the ferociously complicated formula for assessing 'fall-out' payments to a rising player's early clubs. Even FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen, who steered the deal through the European Commission, admitted his concern.

One thing is for certain – the governing bodies have not seen the last of Dupont now he has a Zurich base as well.

Hosts may not get the most

STEFAN SZYMANSKI is not a Polish right-back but a London economist who created a stir at Football Expo by questioning the perceived wisdom that World Cup host nations enjoy a national financial bonanza.

Szymanski produced a dazzlingly detailed array of statistics to back his theory that the financial returns are far less impressive than claimed.

"That is not to say there are not important social and cultural reasons for hosting a major sports event," said Szymanski, "but sooner or later governments are going to question the financial claims."

Szymanski said very little extra domestic consumer spending was generated – merely that its focus changed. The Japanese and Korean public will not have any more money to spend on the World Cup – they will merely amend their financial priorities as far as leisure spending is concerned.

Even more remarkably, Szymanski came up with figures showing the World Cup made no significant difference to the overall number of tourists who visited France in 1998 – despite assumptions to the contrary.

Japan's Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, may thus be badly off track when he says he is relying on the World Cup

finals in June to kick-start his country's move out of recession.

He says: "I strongly hope that this event, including its economic spin-offs, will become a chance for Japan and the Japanese people to recover their spirits."

Koizumi has made optimistic noises since taking office nine months ago, but the Japanese economy continues to deteriorate, with unemployment reaching record levels. Trouble on the streets during June might not necessarily emanate from football hooligans.

Honesty pays for Sheepshanks

IPSWICH chairman David Sheepshanks earned top marks among observers at Football Expo for his open-handed honesty about the future of the UEFA Cup.

Sheepshanks told delegates that, as a fan, he was all in favour of the present knockout system. However, as a club chairman, he was "enough of a prostitute" to want a mini-league system which guaranteed three home matches and a minimum revenue level.

Sheepshanks' dark side will, it seems, be rewarded. The latest annual UEFA club workshop produced an overwhelming vote among the 73 clubs for the introduction of a group phase from 2003. The proposal – still to be reviewed within the Nyon corridors of power, then ratified by UEFA's executive – envisages three knockout rounds followed by home and away competition between eight groups of four clubs. The top two from each group would make up the last 16 and then we would be back to the knockout stuff. The earliest possible start date would be 2003-04.

Hang in there then, Ipswich.

Straight talk...Sheepshanks

Bin Hammam looks to the top

THERE is one question even more open than picking the winner of the FIFA presidential election in May – why would anyone want the job?

Incumbent Sepp Blatter has made no secret of wanting to stay on. South Korea's Chung Mong-joon made acquisitive noises then went quiet. Issa Hayatou is rated "99 per cent certain to stand" (yet again!) according to one African source.

Then there's Franz Beckenbauer – though not for a few years yet. He will have his hands full organising the 2006 World Cup. Single-minded Beckenbauer is unlikely to want a FIFA presidency distraction.

So, is there no one else out there? Yes, there is – though Qatar's Mohamed Bin Hammam wants the Asian confederation presidency first.

Bin Hammam, 52, already on the all-powerful FIFA executive, wants to unite Asia under the umbrella of the AFC. Quite a challenge. Voting for a successor to Malaysia's Sultan Ahmad Shah, in office since 1994, is scheduled for the AFC Congress in Kuala Lumpur on May 10.

Who is Bin Hammam? He heads FIFA's technical committee and is also on the controversial finance committee as well as the organising committee for this year's World Cup finals. That means he has his fingers in lots of FIFA's pies already.

Ambitious...Bin Hammam

PPV – pirates per view

YOU'VE heard of G-14. Now get ready to be assailed by yet another pressure group – AECC or the Association of European Club Channels.

Founder members of a group of clubs with their own television 'service' include Chelsea, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Marseille, Roma, Internazionale and Milan.

Representatives of the Real Madrid and Roma channels were thrown together in a workshop at Football Expo. Interestingly, their revenue plans were very different. The Spanish model relies on merchandise promotion, while the Italians have gone down the advert slot route.

The major problem for all is their inability to provide live coverage of first-team matches. That is, largely, a rights issue. On the other hand, the Italians have an extra complication. Every legal pay-per-view spectator in Italy is matched by one and a half pirate viewers. Another reason to question the pay-per-view mania.

SIDELINES...

"IN these days of boozing, overpaid, overrated footballers, it is refreshing to be writing about a man whose only major fault was that he was too nice" – so writes Norman Giller, who is putting together the authorised biography of Billy Wright, one-time captain of England and Wolves and later television executive. Giller intends to include a chapter of fans' tributes. If you want to be there then access the 'tributes' section in Giller's new website, www.billywright.co.uk.

Mr Nice Guy...Billy Wright gets a lift

THE faint prospect, at long last, of progress towards a settlement of the Anglo-Spanish dispute over Gibraltar will be very welcome to Angel Maria Villar. The Basque president of the Spanish federation could not avoid the political pressures bearing down on him after The Rock's football association sought UEFA membership. "You will have to withdraw from UEFA," Villar was told more than once. The latest proposal appears to involve some sort of shared sovereignty. A suitable compromise? Not so fast. Gibraltar's chief minister, Peter Caruana, is already dead set against the idea. Villar may not yet be off the hook.

SIDELINES...

TOWARDS the end of January, Graham Taylor was guest of honour at the annual Football Writers Association Gala. Each year the FWA chooses a notable football figure and pays respectful tribute. Taylor, having retired from management, used the opportunity to take a few swipes at his critics. It was all taken in good spirit. How long the goodwill can survive his retirement U-turn, having taken the helm at Aston Villa, remains to be seen.

IT SAYS everything about media boredom with the will-he-won't-he saga of the Manchester United managership that on the day Sir Alex Ferguson decided to stay on, most of the papers felt the need to look ahead three years. Sven Goran Eriksson was named as United's ultimate target. This, of course, assumes England make an impressive fist of both the World Cup and Euro 2004.

Wanted man...Eriksson

FOOTBALL EXPO appears established now as the No 1 football business gathering. It takes place every year in Cannes and is fixed in early January – about the only time when most leagues around the world are half-asleep.

FIFA likes Football Expo and, in my opinion, should think seriously about wrapping the World Player of the Year Gala into the event. The benefits are obvious: Football Expo would gain in status and promotional terms, while the gipsy wanderer of a Player award would gain a permanent time slot.

Keir Radnedge

Second-hand Nations Cup. Any offers?

Mark Gleeson reports from the latest CAF Congress in Mali

THE 2006 African Nations Cup finals will now serve as qualifiers for the World Cup finals in Germany the same year. This was decided by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Congress after a short and rather inarticulate debate.

What was expected to be a controversial question, and a hot potato for the leadership of African football, was passed by a clap of hands, condemning the Nations Cup to second-hand status every four years.

The rationale behind the move comes from the need to cut the number of matches on the continent, in accordance with the new FIFA international calendar.

The Nations Cup is played every two years which means that there are two parallel qualifying campaigns every four years when the World Cup preliminaries come around. This was the case last year and it put a particular strain on Europe-based players, who had to shuttle back and forwards between clubs and international duty with their countries.

There is no question of pushing the Nations Cup out to every four years because it remains the major source of CAF's income – about 80 per cent at the last estimate. CAF president Issa Hayatou believes the competition is the catalyst to build much-needed stadiums across the continent that otherwise would not be planned, as has been seen in Burkina Faso and Mali.

FIFA agreed to the idea and president Sepp Blatter also said the draw for the 2006 World Cup finals will be delayed until after the Nations Cup, instead of being held on its traditional date in the December preceding a World Cup.

Surprisingly, there was not one dissenting voice about the Nations Cup being overshadowed by the World Cup qualifiers and losing its unique status on the continent.

Under the new format, the four quarter-finals winners at the 2006 Nations Cup will go on to Germany, with the fifth representatives to be chosen by a format yet to be decided, possibly play-offs.

In effect, these matches will overshadow the latter stages of the Nations Cup and damage the tournament's stature.

Not surprisingly, there are several major candidates to host the 2006 Nations Cup, with Algeria, Egypt and South Africa having put their names forward by the deadline last November. Gabon are the only bidding country who have never hosted the Nations Cup before and would be the most egalitarian choice. But CAF's appetite for staging its showpiece tournament in countries with slim infrastructure, like this year's event in Mali, is waning.

The decision will be made by CAF's executive in September.

- The annual Afro-Asian Club Championship and the biennial Afro-Asian Nations Cup may be restored as CAF bids to re-establish links with Asia. These were cut after the Asian members of the FIFA executive voted for Germany rather than South Africa to host the 2006 World Cup. "We are prepared to work with the Asians if they will work with us," said Hayatou.
- The English FA is bidding to win friends and influence people in Africa after discovering its 'supporters' had deserted it during England's abortive 2006 World Cup bid. The FA has signed an agreement with CAF to stage four workshops on the continent over the next two years covering coaching, football administration and sports medicine.
- CAF will seek more places in future World Cups – but only if their five teams do well in Korea/Japan.

Full match reports from the Nations Cup in World Service.

In accord...English FA ambassador Bobby Charlton with Issa Hayatou

Fading fast

Oliver Butler on the problems facing French clubs

WITH France preparing to defend the World Cup they won on home soil four years ago, it would appear that all was well with French football.

However, the success of the national team has been in stark contrast to the performance of the country's clubs in European competition.

Excluding Marseille's 1993 Champions Cup victory, which was later rescinded over allegations of match-fixing, the only French team to have won a European trophy are Paris Saint-Germain (1996 Cup-winners Cup). And as for the Champions League, no French club have reached the quarter-finals in the past four years.

After much debate and gesticulation over this malaise, some clubs have finally taken action. In December, five (expected to be joined by others) issued a complaint against the French government, claiming that its policies contravened the Treaty of Rome.

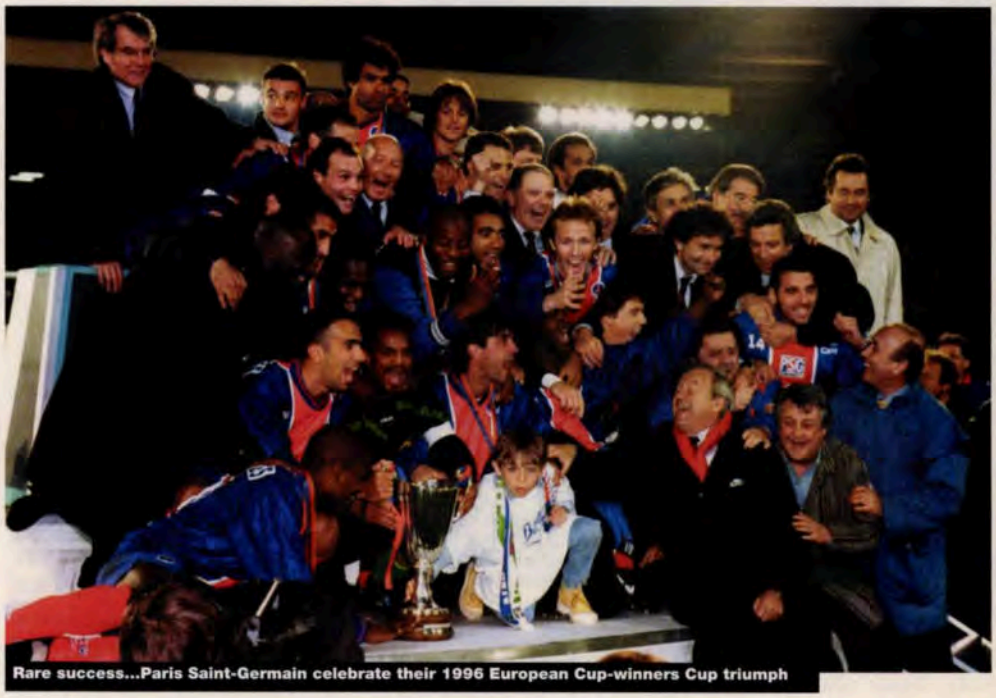
In France, clubs are not allowed to exploit the TV rights to their matches, as these are granted under French law to the French federation, which then cedes them to the League (LNF). This makes France the exception among Europe's five major leagues.

Furthermore, the rights sold by the LNF are also the lowest among the major leagues' TV revenues. French TV rights were worth £250million for the 2001-02 season, less than in Spain and Germany (£300m), Italy (£400m) and England (£380m).

Overall, the French First Division's total income has risen from £272m in 1992 to £607m for the 1999-00 season. But when compared to the English Premier League, which has seen its revenues quadruple to £1.12bn, the reasons for the competitive gulf become more apparent.

Failure to own these TV rights means that the clubs cannot list them as assets on their balance sheet, thus making it more difficult to gain credit from financial institutions.

French clubs are further hamstrung by their inability to go to the stock exchange. In the past 18 months a number of German and Italian clubs have become plcs, and they could be joined this year by Spanish and Turkish clubs. We may even see a Belgian club, Charleroi, float on the Paris Bourse. But this opportunity has been denied by the communist sports minister Marie-George Buffet, who is seen as the *bete noire* of the clubs.



Rare success...Paris Saint-Germain celebrate their 1996 European Cup-winners Cup triumph

The five – Lyon, Lens, Marseille, Lille and Troyes – instructed Bosman lawyer Jean-Louis Dupont to file the complaint to the European Commission. "We do not want to be dodos in this terrible farce of European football," said Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas.

Buffet was defiant. "The initiative taken by the clubs will be seen as a brutal attack on values held by the entire sporting movement," she said, adding that it was "destined to fail".

There was not much sympathy from FFF vice-president Michel Platini, who shares Buffet's opinion that clubs should not float on the stock exchange. "Football is a sport with winners and losers that has no place with shares rising and falling," he says.

"These clubs only want to go to the Paris Bourse so their leaders can then make off with the money raised."

'Football is a sport with winners and losers that has no place with shares rising and falling'

Michel Platini

Certainly, for those who have invested in French football in the past few years in order to compete on a European level, there has been little financial reward. Last month, it was revealed that Marseille president Robert-Louis Dreyfus had put in £150m of his own money over the past six years with nothing in return, while League president Gerard Bourgoin claimed that First Division clubs have total debts of around £82m.

The lack of European success has pushed France's UEFA co-efficient ranking down from second in 1994 to fifth, with Holland and Turkey closing the gap. A further fall will only reduce European chances and so increase the exodus of French players.

This may be for the good of the national team, but if French football is to capitalise on the boom that resulted from the 1998 World Cup victory and maintain its popularity, it will require its clubs to start emulating the national team's successes.

Oliver Butler is editor of Soccer Investor

'The boom is over'

Portugal's Euro 2004 boss fears for football's future, says Gavin Hamilton

Victory sign...Madail was instrumental in winning the rights for 2004

FOOTBALL'S financial boom is living on borrowed time, according to Gilberto Madail, the man who masterminded Portugal's successful bid to host the 2004 European Championship.

"Within three years, there will have to be changes to the way football is run," says Madail, president of the Portuguese Football Federation and now the chair of the organising committee for Euro 2004.

"The collapse of ISL is the first sign. I am an economist by profession, and there is a law in economics that says if the offer is too high, the price will come down. It will happen within three years."

The current explosion in player wages is unsustainable, says Madail. "Football is a very conservative game. We have seen very few rule changes over the years. Yet there has been enormous change in the financing of the game in recent years. Players are the artists – they must be paid well; but when you see what some of them are earning, it is incredible. Clubs across Europe are struggling to pay their players. Look at what has happened to Fiorentina."

Madail suggests a salary cap as a possible solution. "I would like it, and we are talking about it within UEFA, but it is hard to convince the English and the Italians."

> 'Players are the artists – they must be paid well; but when you see what some of them are earning, it is incredible'
> *Gilberto Madail*

The future, Madail insists, lies in a return to basics and the development of successful youth policies. "The mentality is starting to change," he says. "Look at Boavista. Ten years ago they invested in youth, gave young players a chance, and a decade later they were champions, with three players in the Portuguese national team."

Madail plans to use the expected surplus from Euro 2004 to invest in the future of the Portuguese game. "We will use the money to invest in the modernisation of Portuguese football. We are building new stadiums and training facilities. That in turn will create a new mentality – it will all be because of 2004."

Portugal were the surprise winners of the Euro 2004 rights, beating bids from Austria-Hungary and favourites Spain. The decision was a snub to their superpower neighbours, but Portugal's bid was well thought out, with ambitious government-funded plans for new roads, hotels and other infrastructure.

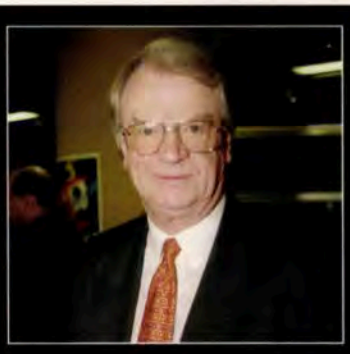
The Portuguese plan to use 10 stadiums for Euro 2004, five adapted from existing grounds and five brand new. "Ten new stadiums is a lot for a small country like Portugal to build," says Madail. "People doubted us at first, but we have been able to do it because each one is being handled very carefully by a local management."

The most controversial development has been the new Benfica stadium in Lisbon, on a site close to the existing Stadium of Light. But Madail insists: "Our stadiums needed to change. Years ago, on my first visit to the Nou Camp in Barcelona, I got there an hour before kick-off and the stadium was empty. It suddenly filled up with 20 minutes to go. Benfica's ancient stadium takes hours to clear."

The new stadiums have been adapted to cope with the changing demands of fans. "We now have more girls and mothers in the stadiums," says Madail. "That never used to happen in Portugal. Women used to wait outside in the car for their husbands."

Madail faces a potential new hurdle following the results of Portugal's municipal elections, with newly-elected mayors reported to be reluctant to continue with their predecessors' spending plans. But he insists that everything is on course for Euro 2004. "We're working with the accounts from Euro 96, not the budgets, so we know how much has been spent. Some stadiums may miss the deadline by few days, but we will be ready. We're using the know-how of UEFA, but all the important decisions will be taken by Portuguese people."

● *For the Euro 2004 qualifying draw, see World Service.*



John Bromley

JOHN BROMLEY, who has died aged 68, combined a rare mixture of talents – a journalist turned TV sports pioneer with a huge enthusiasm for sport.

Too many of his successors, particularly in the sports media business, seem to spend their life rushing from one pressure point to another with little or no understanding of the journalistic perspective. It says everything about Bromley's approach that, after retiring from LWT in 1989, he became president of the British Sports Writers Association.

Bromley started in journalism as a 15-year-old sending reports of his own matches to the *Woodford Times* in Essex. He ended up as the ITV sports boss who first overturned the BBC's command of the sportsviewing heights.

Yet he never lost his love for his original craft and was still writing a column for the *Daily Telegraph* last year before illness took hold.

Keir Radnedge

WORLDSERVICE

INTERNATIONALS

Friday, January 11

Jan 11 - Cairo - friendly
Egypt 2 (Hossam 34, Hosni 71)
Burkina Faso 2 (Barro 72, Dagano 85)
HT: 1-0

Jan 11 - Doha, Qatar - friendly
Iraq 2 (Ridha 4, L Hussein 90)
Oman 0
HT: 1-0

Jan 11 - Tunis - friendly
Tunisia 0
Cameroon 1 (Suffo 41)
HT: 0-1

Saturday, January 12

Jan 12 - Guayaquil - friendly
Ecuador 1 (I Hurtado pen 83)
Guatemala 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Zambrano
Ecuador: Cevallos - Mercado (M Ayovi 66), Poroso, I Hurtado, Capurro (H Guerron 58), E Tenorio (Mendez 66), Hidalgo, Candelario (Gomez 66), Lara, C Tenorio, Asencio (J C Burbano 88).
Guatemala: E Estrada - Donis, Cabrera, Jimenez, Benitez (Albizuris 67), Pivaral (Thompson 51), Chen, Romero (Perez 63), Garcia, Ruiz, Plata (Acevedo 51).

Jan 12 - Bouake - friendly
Ivory Coast 1 (Traore 24)
Nigeria 1 (Akwuegbu 55)
HT: 1-0

Sunday, January 13

Jan 13 - Rabat - friendly
Morocco 2 (Hadda 10, Ramzi 50)
Guinea 1 (Camara 13)
HT: 1-1

Jan 13 - Doha - friendly
Qatar 1 (Anzi 55)
Iraq 3 (Tarek 60, Mahmoud 65, H Muhammed 70)
HT: 0-0

Monday, January 14

Jan 14 - Algiers - friendly
Algeria 4 (Tasfaout 22, 30, Akrour 87, Dziri pen 90)
Benin 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Benouzza (Alg)

Tuesday, January 15

Jan 15 - Ouagadougou - friendly
Burkina Faso 2 (Toure 38, Dagano 65)
Zambia 1 (Bakala 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000

Jan 15 - Mmabatho - friendly
South Africa 1 (B McCarthy 42)
Angola 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 15,000. Ref: Mpofu (Bot)
South Africa: Vonk (Arendse 46) - Mabizela, Carnell, Issa, A Mokoena, Tinkler (Mngomeni 46), Fortune (Mnguni 61), Buckley (Sheppard 52), Nomvete, B McCarthy (Sibaya 73), Bartlett (August 61).
Angola: Fernando - Chunguila, Dias Caires, Renato, Marcos Freitas (Miloy 88), Nelo (Kikas 63), Andre, Carlos Garrocho (Mauro 46), Mendonca (Stoppira 72), Mantorras (Bernardo 72), Akwa.

Wednesday, January 16

Jan 16 - Banjul - friendly
Gambia 0
Morocco 2 (Ramzi 15, Hadda 28)
HT: 0-2

Saturday, January 19

Jan 19 - Basseterre - friendly
St Kitts & Nevis 1
Grenada 1

Sunday, January 20

Jan 20 - friendly
Antigua & Barbuda 4 (Jeffers, Whyte, Anthony, Fredericks)
Dominica 0

Saturday, January 26

Jan 26 - St John's, Antigua - Leeward Is tnmt
Antigua & Barbuda 3
Tortola (BVI) 2
Sent off: Dublin (A&B)

Jan 26 - St John's, Antigua - Leeward Is tnmt
St Kitts & Nevis 3
Saint-Martin 0

Sunday, January 27

Jan 27 - St John's, Antigua - Leeward Is tnmt 3-pl
Saint-Martin 1 (Hodge 36)
Tortola (BVI) 0
HT: 1-0

Jan 27 - St John's, Antigua - Leeward Is tnmt Final
Antigua & Barbuda 1 (Watts 90)
St Kitts & Nevis 2 (Isaac 56, 90)
HT: 0-0

Thursday, January 31

Jan 31 - Goiania - friendly
Brazil 6 (Cris 43, Gilberto Silva 46, 54, Kleberson 63, Washington 72, Anderson Polga 86)
Bolivia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000
Brazil: Dida - Juan, Anderson Polga, Belletti (Kleber 69), Cris, Paulo Cesar, Gilberto Silva, Kleberson (Esquerdinha 75), Juninho (Kaka 69), Luizao (Washington 43), Edilson (Marques 64).
Bolivia: Fernandez - Hoyos, O Sanchez, Sandy, Colque (Algaranaz 72), Vaca (D Pena 75), Ibanes, Galindo, Olivares (Justiniano 63), A Castillo, Botero (Roger Suarez 63).

Wednesday, February 6

Feb 6 - Tehran - friendly
Iran 2 (Karimi 19, pen 80)
Slovakia 3 (Reiter 7, 29, Mintal 68)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Moradi (Irn)
Iran: Fanaei - Golmohammadi, Peyrovani, Kavianpour, Kaabi - Minavand, Nokounam, Jazdani, Jamshidi (Kazemian 60) - Karimi, Mobali (Chatabi 46).
Slovakia: Hyll (Rzeszoto 46) - Kratochvil, Debnar, M Petras - Talda (Mintal 65), Czinege (E Hrncar 75), Dzurik, Michalik (Cisovsky 46), Gerich (Soltis 46) - Bencik (Breska 75), Reiter (Meszaros 46).

Feb 6 - Riyadh - friendly
Saudi Arabia 0
Brazil 1 (Djalminha 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Abdulkhaleq (Bhn)
Saudi Arabia: Al-Deayea - Sulimani, Zubromawi, Al-Doukhi, Al-Waked, Al-Owairan, Al-Harbi (Al-Ghamdi 72), Mohammadi (Al-Temyat 64), Al-Jaber (Al-Jizani 82), Al-Muntashiri (Al-Saqri 46), Al-Jamman (Al-Meshal 64).
Brazil: Dida - Belletti, Juan, Anderson Polga, Cris, Paulo Cesar, Gilberto Silva, Juninho (Daniel 86), Luizao (Djalminha 46), Kleberson (Washington 46), Edilson (Marques 62).

Thursday, February 7

Feb 7 - Singapore - friendly
Singapore 2 (Nasir 46, Baksin 53)
North Korea 1 (So Min-chol 87)
HT: 0-0

GOLD CUP

In the United States

Group A

Jan 19 - Pasadena
El Salvador 0
Mexico 1 (J Garcia 31)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 42,117. **Ref:** Zambrano (Ecu)
El Salvador: S Rivera - Benitez, V Velasquez, Cubias, Cabrera (Canjura 46), Galdamez (Garcia 46), Cerritos, A Martinez (Corrales 87), Rodriguez, Navarro, E Martinez.
Mexico: A Martinez - Garcia Arias, Balderas, Gabriel de Anda, Sosa, Gutierrez, T Campos, Ochoa, J Garcia (Bautista 66), Reyes, Espinoza (Garces 53).

Jan 21 - Pasadena
Mexico 3 (Bautista pen 27, Garces 38, Ochoa 90)
Guatemala 1 (Plata 36)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 31,244. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)
Mexico: O Ortiz - Garcia Arias, Balderas, Hierro, Gutierrez (Sosa 82), Garces, De Nigris (Ochoa 67), Sancho, Noriega, Reyes (T Campos 61), Bautista.
Guatemala: E Estrada - Chen, Cabrera, Jimenez, Benitez (Pivaral 55), Garcia, Ramirez (Romero 46), Plata (Albizuris 69), Thompson, Ruiz, Donis. *Sent off: Chen 25min.*

Jan 23 - Pasadena
Guatemala 0
El Salvador 1 (Cabrera 58)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,906. **Ref:** Zambrano (Ecu)
Guatemala: Ortiz - Cabrera (Benitez 71), Jimenez, Acevedo, Garcia, Ramirez, Plata, Thompson, Ruiz (Romero 46), Donis, Perez (Albizuris 46).
El Salvador: S Rivera - Benitez, V Velasquez, Cubias, Cabrera (Corrales 67), Cerritos, A Martinez (Osorio 90), Rodriguez, Navarro, E Martinez, Garcia.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
El Salvador	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Guatemala	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Group B

Jan 19 - Pasadena
United States 2 (Donovan 36, Beasley 90)
South Korea 1 (Song Chong-gug 38)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 42,117. **Ref:** Richard (Dom)
USA: Keller - Hejduk, Lewis (Beasley 79), Razov (Jones 75), Agoos, Armas, Bocanegra, Lagos (Cunningham 64), McBride, Donovan, Califf.
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Kim Tae-young, Kim Nam-il, Song Chong-gug, Choi Yong-soo, Lee Chun-soo (Lee Young-pyo 72), Lee Eul-young (Hyun Young-min 72), Choi Jin-cheul, Park Ji-sung, Yoo Sang-chul, Cha Doo-ri (Kim Sang-sik 87). *Sent off: Choi Jin-cheul 56min.*

Jan 21 - Pasadena
Cuba 0
United States 1 (McBride pen 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 31,244. **Ref:** Pineda (Hnd)
Cuba: Molina - Driggs, Marquez, Rodriguez, Cruzata, Pedraza (Gandara 82), Delgado, Pedro (Dalcourt 78), Ramirez (Galindo 64), L Perez, Martinez.
USA: Keller - Hejduk, Beasley, Agoos, Jones, Armas, Wolff (Cunningham 66), Bocanegra, McBride, Donovan (Williams 55), Mastroeni.

Jan 23 - Pasadena
South Korea 0
Cuba 0
Att: 12,906. **Ref:** Bynoe (T&T)
South Korea: Kim Byung-ji - Hyun Young-min, Kim Tae-young, Kim Nam-il, Song Chong-gug, Choi Yong-soo, Hwang Sun-hong (Kim Do-hoon 65), Lee Chun-soo (Lee Eul-young 70), Park Ji-sung, Lee Young-pyo, Yoo Sang-chul.
Cuba: Molina - Driggs, Marquez, Cruzata, Gandara (Estrada 67), Dalcourt, Delgado, Pedro, Ramirez, L Perez, Galindo (Martinez 54).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
South Korea	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Cuba	2	0	1	1	0	1	1

Group C

Jan 18 - Miami
Martinique 0
Costa Rica 2 (Medford 38, Fonseca 55)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,508. **Ref:** Alcala (Mex)
Martinique: Heurlie - Clorus, DiCanot, Mirande, Vaton, Lavril, Lina (Goron 85), Reuperne, Percin, Rano (Lupon 59), Gibon (Bullet 63).
Costa Rica: Mesen - Wallace (Centeno 46), R Parks, G Martinez, Marin, C Castro (Sunsing 77), Medford, M Solis, Lopez, Fonseca, Rojas (Bryce 57).

Jan 20 - Miami
Costa Rica 1 (Fonseca 56)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (S John pen 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,253. **Ref:** Hall (USA)
Costa Rica: Lonnis - Drummond (Marin 42), G Martinez, R Parks, Lopez (Medford 77), M Solis, Wallace, C Castro, Centeno, Gomez (Bryce 59), Fonseca.
Trinidad & Tobago: Hislop - Saunders, M Andrews, A John, Carrington, Rahim (Eve 78), Elcock (Gray 58), S John, Mason, Dwarika, N Pierre (Samuel 46). *Sent off: Dwarika 69min.*

Jan 22 - Miami
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Martinique 1 (Percin 51)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,827. **Ref:** Sibrian (ElS)
Trinidad & Tobago: Hislop - Saunders, M Andrews, A John, Eve, Carrington, Rahim (Whitley 69), Elcock (Gray 75), S John, Mason, N Pierre (Samuel 62).
Martinique: Heurlie - Vaton, Percin, DiCanot, Lupon (Rano 46), Mirande, Gibon, LaGrand, Lavril, Lina (Agathine 54), Reuperne. *Sent off: Gibon 85min.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Martinique	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Trinidad & Tob	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Group D

Jan 18 - Miami
Haiti 0
Canada 2 (McKenna 28, 49)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,508. **Ref:** Moreno (Pan)

Haiti: Ferdinand - Gilles, J-J Pierre, Jean-Baptiste, Monpremier (Atis 46), Tardieu (Alerte 55), Descolines (Saint-Jean 86), G Pierre, Montilas, Desir, Bruny.
Canada: Hirschfeld - Menezes, De Vos, Fletcher, Imhof (Rogers 73), Stalteri, Dasovic, Hastings, Brennan, Xausa (Pozniak 90), McKenna (DeRosario 83).

Jan 20 - Miami
Ecuador 0
Haiti 2 (Mendez og 6, Alerte 44)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 12,253. **Ref:** Batres (Gtm)
Ecuador: Cevallos - I Hurtado, Obregon (Gomez 56), R Guerron, C Tenorio, A Aguinaga (Asencio 56), Fernandez, Chala (Lara 46), G Espinoza, Mendez, E Tenorio. *Sent off: R Guerron 30min.*
Haiti: Ferdinand - Gilles, J-J Pierre, Jean-Baptiste, Descolines (Monpremier 78), G Pierre, Montilas, Alerte (Atis 70), Desir, Saint-Jean (Saincius 88), Bruny. *Sent off: Gilles 50min.*

Jan 22 - Miami
Canada 0
Ecuador 2 (A Aguinaga pen 88, 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,827. **Ref:** Hall (USA)
Canada: Hirschfeld - Menezes, De Vos, Stalteri, Dasovic, Xausa (DeRosario 80), Brennan, Fletcher (Rogers 17), Imhof (Bent 53), Hastings, McKenna.
Ecuador: Cevallos - Poroso, I Hurtado, M Ayovi, Obregon, Gomez, C Tenorio (Asencio 76), A Aguinaga, Chala, Hidalgo, E Tenorio (Fernandez 69).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Haiti	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Ecuador	2	1	0	1	2	2	3

Canada and Haiti qualified for the quarter-finals after a drawing of lots to determine group finishing positions

Quarter-finals

Jan 26 - Miami
Costa Rica 2 (Centeno 2, Gomez 97 - golden goal)
Haiti 1 (G Pierre 62)
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 14,823.
Ref: Alcala (Mex)
Costa Rica: Lonnis - Marin, G Martinez, Lopez, M Solis, Wanchope, Centeno (Medford 70), Gomez, Wallace, R Parks, C Castro (Sunsing 65).
Haiti: Ferdinand - Altidor, J-J Pierre, Jean-Baptiste, Descolines (Saint-Jean 67), G Pierre, Montilas, Alerte (Tardieu 76), Desir, Atis, Bruny.

Jan 26 - Miami
Canada 1 (McKenna 73)
Martinique 1 (Rogers og 63)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 14,823.
Ref: Batres (Gtm)
Canada 6-5 on pens
Canada: Hirschfeld - Rogers, Menezes (DeRosario 54), De Vos, Stalteri, Bent, Brennan, Hastings, Imhof (Nsaliwa 107), McKenna, Xausa (De Guzman 104).
Martinique: Heurlie - Mirande, LaGrand, DiCanot, Reuperne, Vaton, Lina, Bullet (Agathine 46), Lavril, Percin (Clement 88), Rano (Lupon 91). *Sent off: Lavril 61min.*

Jan 27 - Pasadena
Mexico 0
South Korea 0
Aet. **Att:** 31,628. **Ref:** Pineda (Hnd)
South Korea 4-2 on pens
Mexico: A Martinez - Balderas, Hierro, Gabriel de Anda, Sosa, T Campos, Ochoa, Garces (Reyes 100), Sancho (Gutierrez 46), Noriega, Bautista (J Garcia 63).
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Kim Tae-young, Kim Nam-il, Song Chong-gug, Kim Do-hoon (Lee Dong-gook 74), Lee Eul-young, Choi Jin-cheul, Park Ji-sung, Lee Young-pyo, Cha Doo-ri (Ahn Hyo-yeon 106), Choi Tae-uk (Choi Sung-yong 46).

Jan 27 - Pasadena
United States 4 (McBride 9, 11, 21, Razov 71)
El Salvador 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 31,628. **Ref:** Richard (Dom)
USA: Keller - Hejduk, Lewis, Razov, Agoos, Jones, Armas, Bocanegra (Beasley 46), McBride (Mathis 63), Donovan (Maisonneuve 61), Mastroeni.
El Salvador: S Rivera - Benitez, V Velasquez, Cubias (Umanzor 46), Cabrera (Corrales 46), Cerritos, A Martinez (Osorio 79), Rodriguez, Navarro, E Martinez, Garcia.

Semi-finals

Jan 30 - Pasadena
Costa Rica 3 (Gomez 44, Wanchope 77, 82)
South Korea 1 (Choi Jin-cheul 81)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,241. **Ref:** Sibrian (ES)
Costa Rica: Lonnis - Marin, G Martinez, M Solis, Wanchope, Centeno (Lopez 67), Gomez, Wallace (Sanchez 84), Medford (Bryce 61), R Parks, C Castro.
South Korea: Kim Byung-ji - Choi Sung-yong, Kim Tae-young, Song Chong-gug, Kim Do-hoon (Ahn Hyo-yeon 68), Lee Eul-young, Choi Jin-cheul, Lee Young-pyo, Choi Tae-uk (Lee Dong-gook 55), Cha Doo-ri, Kim Sang-sik (Hyun Young-min 90).

Jan 30 - Pasadena
Canada 0
United States 0
Aet. **Att:** 7,241. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)
United States 4-2 on pens
Canada: Hirschfeld - Menezes, De Vos, Bent (Xausa 11; DeRosario 75), Stalteri, Dasovic, Brennan, Fletcher, Imhof (Nsaliwa 70), Hastings, McKenna.
USA: Keller - Hejduk, Lewis (Beasley 65), Agoos, Jones (West 106), Armas, Wolff (Mathis 75), Bocanegra, McBride, Donovan, Mastroeni.

Third-place play-off

Feb 2 - Pasadena
Canada 2 (Kim Do-hoon og 34, DeRosario 35)
South Korea 1 (Kim Do-hoon 15)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 14,432. **Ref:** Bynoe (T&T)
Canada: Hirschfeld - Rogers, Menezes (Pozniak 44), De Vos, Stalteri, Dasovic, Brennan, Hastings, DeRosario (De Guzman 89), Nsaliwa, McKenna.
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Sung-yong, Song Chong-gug, Kim Do-hoon (Lee Dong-gook 61), Lee Eul-young (Ahn Hyo-yeon 68), Kim Do-keun, Choi Jin-cheul, Lee Young-pyo, Choi Tae-uk (Kim Nam-il 7), Cha Doo-ri, Kim Sang-sik.

Final

Feb 2 - Pasadena
United States 2 (Wolff 37, Agoos 63)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,432. **Ref:** Batres (Gtm)
USA: Keller - Hejduk, Lewis, Agoos, Jones (West 84), Armas, Wolff (Williams 78), Bocanegra, McBride (Mathis 89), Donovan, Mastroeni.
Costa Rica: Lonnis - Marin (Centeno 46), G Martinez, Lopez, M Solis, Wanchope, Gomez, Wallace (Medford 59), Bryce, R Parks, C Castro (Sunsing 71).

GULF CUP

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Jan 16
Saudi Arabia 1 (Al-Jaber 16)
Kuwait 1 (Al-Huwaidi 49)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000

Jan 17
Qatar 1 (Jaddouh 67)
Bahrain 0
HT: 0-0

United Arab Emirates 1 (H A Ali 12)
Oman 0
HT: 1-0

Jan 19
Kuwait 1 (Al-Huwaidi 80)
Oman 3 (Al-Dhabit 61, 71, 90)
HT: 0-0

Jan 20
United Arab Emirates 0
Qatar 2 (Rashed 35, Nazmi 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000

Saudi Arabia 3 (Al-Yami 14, 32, Al-Jaber 90)
Bahrain 1 (Jamal 67)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 23,000

Jan 22
Kuwait 0
Bahrain 0
Att: 6,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
Sent off: Hussein (Bahrain) 17min; B Abdullah (Kuwait) 79min

Jan 24
Oman 1 (Al-Dhabit pen 6)
Qatar 2 (Al-Tamimi 56, Bashir 90)
HT: 1-0

Saudi Arabia 1 (A Al-Dossari 1)
United Arab Emirates 0
HT: 1-0

Jan 26
Kuwait 0
Qatar 1 (Rashed 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000

Jan 27
Saudi Arabia 2 (Al-Yami 11, Al-Jamaan 79)
Oman 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 13,000

United Arab Emirates 1 (Ibrahim 77)
Bahrain 2 (H Ali 31, Eissa 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Al-Aqili (Sau)

Jan 29
Bahrain 1 (Marzooki 44)
Oman 1 (Al-Dhabit 27)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000

United Arab Emirates 1 (Jumaa 65)
Kuwait 2 (Al-Huwaidi 31, 39)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,000
Sent off: Moussa (Kuwait) 78min

Jan 30
Saudi Arabia 3 (Al-Jamaan pen 79, Mohammadi 84, Al-Meshal 90)
Qatar 1 (Khalifa 25)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 80,000

GULF CUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	5	4	1	0	10	3	13
Qatar	5	4	0	1	7	4	12
Bahrain	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Kuwait	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Oman	5	1	1	3	5	7	4
UAE	5	1	0	4	3	7	3

OTHER GAMES

Jan 11 - San Jose - friendly
Costa Rica 2 (Medford 33, Sunsing 87)
Cameroon U-23 1 (Dikoume 56)
HT: 1-0

Jan 13 - San Cristobal - friendly
Venezuela 1 (Vallenilla 22)
Cameroon U-23 1 (Feutchine 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000

Jan 16 - Guatemala City - friendly
Guatemala 5 (Plata 12, 55, 66, Jimenez 79, Acevedo 85)
Cameroon U-23 2 (Olinga 24, Jama 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Castillo (Gtm)

EUROPE

EURO 2004

Qualifying draw

Group 1

France, Slovenia, Israel, Cyprus, Malta

Group 2

Romania, Denmark, Norway, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Luxembourg

Group 3

Czech Republic, Holland, Austria, Belarus, Moldova

Group 4

Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, San Marino

Group 5

Germany, Scotland, Iceland, Lithuania, Faroe Islands

Group 6

Spain, Ukraine, Greece, Northern Ireland, Armenia

Group 7

Turkey, England, Slovakia, Macedonia, Liechtenstein

Group 8

Belgium, Croatia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Andorra

Group 9

Italy, Yugoslavia, Finland, Wales, Azerbaijan

Group 10

Rep of Ireland, Russia, Switzerland, Georgia, Albania

- The 10 group winners qualify for the finals automatically; the 10 runners-up will play-off in five head-to-head, home and away ties, the winners of which also qualify.
- The 10 qualifying matchdays: Sep 7/8, 2002; Oct 12/13, 2002; Oct 15/16, 2002; Mar 29/30, 2003; Apr 1/2, 2003; June 7/8, 2003; June 10/11, 2003; Sep 6/7, 2003; Sep 9/10, 2003; Oct 11/12, 2003.
- Qualifying play-off dates: Nov 15/16, 2003; Nov 18/19, 2003.
- Portugal qualify automatically for the finals as hosts.
- Finals tournament: opening match – June 12, 2004, in Oporto; Final – July 4, 2004, in Lisbon.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2nd group phase

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Boavista	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Nantes	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

Feb 20: Boavista v Bayern Munich; Nantes v Manchester United.
Feb 26: Bayern Munich v Boavista; Manchester United v Nantes.
Mar 13: Manchester United v Bayern Munich; Nantes v Boavista.
Mar 19: Bayern Munich v Nantes; Boavista v Manchester United.

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Galatasaray	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Roma	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Liverpool	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Feb 20: Barcelona v Roma; Liverpool v Galatasaray.
Feb 26: Galatasaray v Liverpool; Roma v Barcelona.
Mar 13: Barcelona v Liverpool; Roma v Galatasaray.
Mar 19: Galatasaray v Barcelona; Liverpool v Roma.

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Sparta Prague	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
FC Porto	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Panathinaikos	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

Feb 19: Real Madrid v FC Porto; Sparta Prague v Panathinaikos.
Feb 27: Panathinaikos v Sparta Prague; FC Porto v Real Madrid.
Mar 12: FC Porto v Panathinaikos; Real Madrid v Sparta Prague.
Mar 20: Panathinaikos v Real Madrid; Sparta Prague v FC Porto.

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Arsenal	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Bayer Leverkusen	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Dep La Coruna	2	1	0	1	2	3	3

Feb 19: Bayer Leverkusen v Arsenal; Juventus v Deportivo La Coruna.
Feb 27: Arsenal v Bayer Leverkusen; Deportivo La Coruna v Juventus.
Mar 12: Arsenal v Deportivo La Coruna; Bayer Leverkusen v Juventus.
Mar 20: Deportivo La Coruna v Bayer Leverkusen; Juventus v Arsenal.

UEFA CUP

4th rnd draw

*Valencia (Spa) v Servette (Swi) (1)
Lille (Fra) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger) (2)
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) v Leeds United (Eng) (3)
*Roda JC (Hol) v Milan (Ita) (4)
Internazionale (Ita) v AEK Athens (Gre) (5)
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) v Parma (Ita) (6)
Lyon (Fra) v Slovan Liberec (Cze) (7)
Rangers (Sco) v Feyenoord (Hol) (8)
*1st legs, February 21 (*February 19); 2nd legs, February 28*

Quarter-finals draw

Winners (6) v Winners (4)
Winners (5) v Winners (1)
Winners (3) v Winners (8)
Winners (7) v Winners (2)
1st legs, March 14; 2nd legs, March 21

BELGIUM

Friday, January 11

La Louviere 1 (Tilmant 15)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Snelders 58) Att: 4,500

Saturday, January 12

Beveren 1 (Danilevicius 73)
Genk 6 (Paas 31, 65, Sonck 38, 81, 87, De Camargo 86) Att: 6,000

Lokeren 2 (Zoundi 60, Bangoura 64)
Lierse 1 (Thompson 84) Att: 5,200

Mouscron 6 (Marcin Zewlakow 49, Gregoire 51, Casto pen 54, Mpenza 67, 84, Dugardein 74)
Eendracht Aalst 1 (Stojak 24) Att: 6,000

RWDM 0
Lommel 1 (Mennes 8) Att: 3,000

St Truiden 0
Gent 1 (Kaklamanos 33) Att: 7,500

Westerlo 1 (Pelic 65)
Club Brugge 4 (Verheyen 28, Simic 57, Mendoza 59, Schockaert 89) Att: 8,000

Sunday, January 13

Royal Antwerp 2 (Goots 27, 83)
Anderlecht 2 (Crasson 47, Jestrovic 80) Att: 9,000

Standard 6 (Tokene og 11, Van Dooren 20, Meyssen 50, Cavens 55, Da Silva Moreira 62, 63)
Charleroi 0 Att: 13,000

Saturday, January 19

Anderlecht 5 (Jestrovic 10, Crasson 42, Hasi 50, De Bilde 58, 72)
La Louviere 2 (Ouedec 40, Tilmant 75) Att: 23,000

Charleroi 3 (Pivaljevic 32, Eduardo 55, 65)
RWDM 1 (Origi 35) Att: 6,966

Genk 2 (Skoko 7, 40)
Royal Antwerp 1 (Leleu 2) Att: 20,342

Gent 1 (Kaklamanos 50)
Mouscron 1 (Gregoire 18) Att: 10,600

Lommel 0
St Truiden 1 (Delorge 14) Att: 6,000

Sunday, January 20

Club Brugge 2 (Lange 26, Englebert 29)
Lokeren 4 (De Brul og 36, De Beule 38, Bangoura 58, Zoundi 63) Att: 17,000

Eendracht Aalst 0
Westerlo 1 (Pelic 26) Att: 3,000

Lierse 3 (Huysegems 18, Thompson 40, 43)
Beveren 3 (Danilevicius 21, 38, Vlaminck 56) Att: 4,000

Friday, January 25

Anderlecht 1 (Baseggio 87)
Germinal Beerschot 0 Att: 23,500

Saturday, January 26

Beveren 0
Club Brugge 4 (Simic 52, 89, Verheyen 70, Mendoza 85) Att: 5,000

La Louviere 0
Genk 0 Att: 6,000

Lokeren 1 (Kristinsson 60)
Eendracht Aalst 0 Att: 4,150

Royal Antwerp 1 (Goots 6)
Lierse 4 (Leen 54, Thompson 66, Gadiaga 68, Huysegems 83) Att: 6,800

St Truiden 2 (Voets 78, Boffin 89)
Charleroi 1 (Dufer 69) Att: 5,500

Westerlo 3 (Pelic pen 10, pen 17, Schaessens 58)
Gent 1 (Gajser 37) Att: 5,500

Sunday, January 27

Mouscron 1 (Dugardein 78)
Lommel 0 Att: 6,000

RWDM 2 (Allou 68, Origi 70)
Standard 1 (Van Dooren 36) Att: 8,000

Saturday, February 2

Charleroi 0
Mouscron 2 (Gregoire 18, Ban 84) Att: 8,194

Gent 1 (Kaklamanos 76)
Lokeren 1 (Zoundi 59) Att: 10,095

Germinal Beerschot 2 (Degryse 55, Van Mieghem 74)
RWDM 2 (Magro 82, 87) Att: 7,000

Lommel 3 (Scheepers 4, Culek 9, Waligora 60)
Westerlo 0 Att: 6,000

Standard 1 (Goossens 45)
St Truiden 3 (Boffin 28, Pereira 44, Verjans 85) Att: 14,000

Sunday, February 3

Club Brugge 4 (Verheyen 14, 40, Englebert 30, Simic pen 55)
Royal Antwerp 1 (Sergeant 50) Att: 18,000

Eendracht Aalst 0
Beveren 1 (Wostijn 86) Att: 2,500

Lierse 0
La Louviere 1 (Tilmant 47) Att: 7,000

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	21	15	1	5	52	25	46
Genk	20	12	7	1	56	25	43
Anderlecht	20	12	6	2	44	22	42
Gent	21	12	5	4	36	26	41
Standard	20	12	4	4	40	23	40
Lokeren	21	11	6	4	33	21	39
Mouscron	21	10	2	9	44	29	32
St Truiden	21	9	4	8	32	30	31
G Beerschot	20	7	7	6	38	28	28
Lommel	21	6	6	9	32	38	24
Westerlo	21	7	3	11	33	40	24
Charleroi	21	7	3	11	19	40	24
Lierse	21	5	6	10	33	36	21
RWDM	21	6	3	12	28	39	21
La Louviere	21	4	7	10	24	42	19
Royal Antwerp	21	4	5	12	27	41	17
Eendracht Aalst	21	4	3	14	18	49	15
Beveren	21	2	6	13	21	56	12

LEADING GOALSCORERS
21 Wesley Sonck (Genk)
16 Rune Lange (Club Brugge)
13 Beli Moumouni Dagano (Genk)
11 Sambegou Bangoura (Lokeren)
11 Vedran Pelic (Westerlo)
10 Zoran Ban (Mouscron)

BELGIAN CUP – last 16

Jan 16: Royal Antwerp 1 Club Brugge 1 (aet; Brugge 5-4 on pens).

Quarter-finals

Jan 15: Mouscron 5 Genk 2 (aet).
Jan 16: La Louviere 0 Lokeren 2; Lierse 0 St Truiden 2.
Jan 23: Club Brugge 1 Beveren 0.

Semi-finals

1st legs
Feb 6: Club Brugge 3 Lokeren 0; Mouscron 3 St Truiden 0.

ENGLAND

Saturday, January 12

Aston Villa 2 (Angel 12, Vassell 26)
Derby 1 (Powell 23) Att: 28,881

Blackburn 4 (Tugay 5, Cole 45, Hignett 85, Jansen 89)
Charlton 1 (Euell 53) Att: 23,365

Bolton 2 (Ricketts 56, Nolan 79)
Chelsea 2 (Gudjohnsen 53, Forssell 65) Att: 23,891

Everton 1 (Blomqvist 27)
Sunderland 0 Att: 30,736

Fulham 2 (Saha 40, Marlet 45)
Middlesbrough 1 (Cooper 8) Att: 19,875

Ipswich 2 (M Bent 12, McGreal 81)
Tottenham 1 (Poyet 58) Att: 25,077

Newcastle 3 (Duberry og 44, Dyer 60, Bellamy 87)
Leeds 1 (Smith 1) Att: 52,130

West Ham 1 (Di Canio 36)
Leicester 0 Att: 34,698

Sunday, January 13

Arsenal 1 (Ljungberg 62)
Liverpool 1 (Riise 69) Att: 38,132

Southampton 1 (Beattie 3)
Man Utd 3 (Van Nistelrooy 9, Beckham 45, Solskjaer 63) Att: 31,818

Saturday, January 19

Derby 1 (Christie 79)
Ipswich 3 (M Bent 47, Peralta 67, Reuser 87) Att: 29,658

Leicester 0
Newcastle 0 Att: 21,354

Liverpool 1 (Owen 8)
Southampton 1 (Davies 46) Att: 43,710

Man Utd 2 (Van Nistelrooy pen 45, Keane 81)
Blackburn 1 (Hignett 49) Att: 67,552

Middlesbrough 1 (Whelan 38)
Bolton 1 (Hansen 73) Att: 26,104

Sunderland 1 (Phillips 67)
Fulham 1 (Malbranque 15) Att: 45,124

Tottenham 1 (Ferdinand 5)
Everton 1 (Weir 8) Att: 36,056

Sunday, January 20

Chelsea 5 (Hasselbaink 45, 60, Gudjohnsen 51, 87, Forssell 90)
West Ham 1 (Defoe 88) Att: 40,035

Leeds 1 (Fowler 6)
Arsenal 1 (Pires 45) Att: 40,143

Monday, January 21

Charlton 1 (Stuart 88)
Aston Villa 2 (Vassell 8, Angel 42) Att: 25,681

Tuesday, January 22

Man Utd 0
Liverpool 1 (Murphy 85) Att: 67,599

Wednesday, January 23

Leicester 1 (Izzet 68)
Arsenal 3 (Van Bronckhorst 33, Henry 43, Wiltord 90) Att: 21,344

Tuesday, January 29

Bolton 0
Man Utd 4 (Solskjaer 15, 39, 64, Van Nistelrooy 84) Att: 27,350

Charlton 1 (Bart-Williams 79)
Derby 0 Att: 25,387

Sunderland 0
Middlesbrough 1 (Whelan 14) Att: 44,579

Wednesday, January 30

Aston Villa 0
Everton 0 Att: 32,460

Blackburn 2 (Jansen 31, 39)
Arsenal 3 (Bergkamp 14, 75, Henry 21) Att: 25,893

Chelsea 2 (Gudjohnsen 2, Dalla Bona 31)
Leeds 0 Att: 40,614

Ipswich 1 (M Bent 10)
Fulham 0 Att: 25,156

Liverpool 1 (Heskey 57)
Leicester 0 Att: 25,156

Southampton 2 (Davies 43, Fernandes 66)
West Ham 0 Att: 31,879

Tottenham 1 (Iversen 17)
Newcastle 3 (Acuna 67, Shearer 69, Bellamy 78) Att: 35,798

Saturday, February 2

Arsenal 1 (Wiltord 40)
Southampton 1 (Tessem 80) Att: 38,024

Derby 1 (Morris 43)
Tottenham 0 Att: 27,721

Everton 1 (Unsworth pen 28)
Ipswich 2 (Peralta 11, Holland 44) Att: 33,069

Fulham 0
Aston Villa 0 Att: 20,041

Leicester 2 (Scowcroft 24, 68)
Chelsea 3 (Hasselbaink 62, 90, Zola 79) Att: 19,950

Man Utd 4 (P Neville 6, Beckham 25, Van Nistelrooy 28, 44)
Sunderland 1 (Phillips 12) Att: 67,587

Newcastle 3 (Shearer 23, 43, Bellamy 79)
Bolton 2 (Gardner 19, Southall 34) Att: 52,094

West Ham 2 (Sinclair 17, Kanoute 56)
Blackburn 0 Att: 35,307

Sunday, February 3

Leeds 0
Liverpool 4 (Ferdinand og 17, Heskey 61, 63, Owen 90) Att: 40,216

Middlesbrough 0
Charlton 0 Att: 24,189

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	26	16	3	7	64	35	51
Newcastle	25	15	4	6	48	32	49
Liverpool	26	14	7	5	38	24	49
Arsenal	25	13	9	3	50	30	48
Chelsea	25	11	10	4	45	25	43
Leeds	25	11	9	5	35	27	42
Aston Villa	25	9	10	6	31	28	37
Charlton	25	8	9	8	30	30	33
Tottenham	25	9	5	11	35	34	32
Fulham	24	7	11	6	23	23	32
West Ham	25	8	7	10	29	41	31
Ipswich	25	8	6	11	34	34	30
Southampton	25	9	3	13	30	38	30
Everton	25	7	7	11	26	32	28
Sunderland	25	7	7	11	20	30	28
Middlesbrough	24	7	6	11	22	31	27
Blackburn	25	6	7	12	32	34	25
Bolton	25	5	10	10	29	42	25
Derby	25	6	4	15	18	42	22
Leicester	25	3	8	14	17	44	17

LEADING GOALSCORERS
18 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea)
18 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
18 Ruud Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)
14 Alan Shearer (Newcastle)
12 Michael Owen (Liverpool)
12 Michael Ricketts (Bolton)
11 Eidur Gudjohnsen (Chelsea)

FA CUP – 3rd rnd (last 64)

Jan 15: Brighton 0 Preston 2; Crewe 2 Sheffield Wed 1; Darlington 2 Peterborough 2.
Jan 16: Coventry 0 Tottenham 2; Rotherham 2 Southampton 1; Stockport 1 Bolton 4.

3rd rnd replays

Jan 15: Fulham 1 Wycombe 0; Middlesbrough 2 Wimbledon 0; York 1 Grimsby 0.
Jan 16: Blackburn 3 Barnsley 1; Chelsea 4 Norwich 0.
Jan 21: Peterborough 2 Darlington 0.

4th rnd (last 32)

Jan 26: Charlton 1 Walsall 2; Chelsea 1 West Ham 1; Everton 4 Leyton Orient 1; Middlesbrough 2 Manchester Utd 0; Millwall 0 Blackburn 1; Preston 2 Sheffield Utd 1; Rotherham 2 Crewe 4; West Brom 1 Leicester 0; York 0 Fulham 2.
Jan 27: Arsenal 1 Liverpool 0; Cheltenham 2 Burnley 1; Ipswich 1 Manchester City 4; Peterborough 2 Newcastle 4; Tranmere 3 Cardiff 1.
Feb 5: Gillingham 1 Bristol Rovers 0; Tottenham 4 Bolton 0.

4th rnd replay

Feb 6: West Ham 2 Chelsea 3.

FRANCE

Friday, January 11

Lille 0
Lens 1 (Diouf 58) Att: 20,191

Saturday, January 12

Marseille 2 (Alfonso 6, Rivera 34)
Bastia 2 (Dieuze 54, Essien 69) Att: 45,850

Monaco 1 (Gallardo 76)
Lorient 0 Att: 4,550

Nantes 2 (Moldovan 63, Armand 79)
Guingamp 0 Att: 27,850

Rennes 1 (Le Roux 72)
Paris SG 2 (Ronaldinho 20, Alex 45) Att: 18,500

Sochaux 0
Montpellier 1 (Barbosa 18) Att: 11,150

Wednesday, January 16

Auxerre 2 (Cisse 2, Mexes 52)
Lorient 2 (Darcheville 70, 89) Att: 6,000

Lille 2 (Boutoille 71, Cygan 89)
Bordeaux 2 (Pauleta pen 30, 78) Att: 17,500

Lyon 0
Bastia 0 Att: 25,000

Montpellier 1 (Rouviere 90)
Monaco 1 (Nonda 25) Att: 15,000

Troyes 2 (Loko 46, Gousse 69)
Metz 0 Att: 12,426

Wednesday, January 23

Bastia 1 (Vairelles 61)
Metz 2 (Jager 12, 31) Att: 5,544

Bordeaux 0
Sochaux 1 (Frau 10) Att: 28,000

Guingamp 0
Lille 0 Att: 9,500

Lorient 2 (Feindouno 4, Martini 74)
Rennes 0 Att: 12,000

Lyon 4 (Anderson pen 22, 35, Jurietti og 29, Govou 32)
Marseille 0 Att: 38,376

Montpellier 0
Auxerre 0 Att: 9,850

Sedan 0
Nantes 0 Att: 13,500

Troyes 3 (Gousse 33, 50, Hamed 58)
Monaco 0 Att: 12,616

Thursday, January 24

Lens 1 (Pedron 89)
Paris SG 1 (Ronaldinho pen 86) Att: 36,942

Saturday, January 26

Troyes 1 (Gousse 47)
Marseille 0 Att: 15,715

Tuesday, January 29

Nantes 3 (Vahirua 29, 45, Moldovan 53)
Lyon 0 Att: 32,000

Wednesday, January 30

Auxerre 1 (Cisse 76)
Bastia 0 Att: 5,000

Marseille 2 (Alfonso 4, 67)
Sedan 1 (Poueys 79) Att: 46,285

Metz 2 (Toyes 7, Meyrieu 69)
Guingamp 4 (Drogba 47, Guillaume 55, Saci 62, 88) Att: 13,834

Monaco 3 (Prso pen 14, 24, Eloi 35)
Bordeaux 1 (Pauleta 42) Att: 4,500

Paris SG 5 (Dehu 4, Fiorese 13, Ronaldinho 41, J Leroy 56, 70)
Lorient 0 Att: 37,680

Rennes 2 (Le Roux 18, 36)
Montpellier 0 Att: 12,165

Sochaux 0
Lens 2 (Moreira 22, Sibierski 44) Att: 16,474

Saturday, February 2

Bastia 1 (Beneforti 55)
Lille 0 Att: 5,971

Bordeaux 2 (Pauleta pen 16, pen 90)
Lorient 1 (Darcheville pen 45) Att: 27,297

Guingamp 0
Auxerre 0 Att: 13,682

Lens 1 (Sibierski 9)
Monaco 0 Att: 37,454

Lyon 4 (Carriere 12, Govou 60, Anderson 85, Luyindula 90)
Metz 1 (Baticle 8) Att: 30,336

Montpellier 0
Paris SG 0 Att: 17,731

Sedan 2 (Poueys 42, Asuar pen 56)
Sochaux 1 (Crucet 30) Att: 12,000

Troyes 1 (Loko 16)
Rennes 1 (Le Roux 36) Att: 12,453

Sunday, February 3

Nantes 3 (Berson 36, 45, Torrisi og 39)
Marseille 1 (Dalmat 23) Att: 35,000

Wednesday, February 6

Auxerre 1 (Kapo 68)
Lens 0 Att: 16,000

Lille 1 (Sterjovski 41)
Sedan 1 (Poueys 9) Att: 16,140

Lorient 1 (Esceth-N'zi 88)
Montpellier 0 Att: 9,100

Marseille 2 (Sakho 21, Rivera pen 71)
Guingamp 1 (Saci 26) Att: 46,630

Metz 2 (Proment 43, Bastien 90)
Nantes 0 Att: 15,025

Monaco 1 (Nyarko 66)
Bastia 1 (Vairelles pen 34) Att: 3,000

Rennes 2 (Arribage 24, Batlles pen 30)
Lyon 2 (Anderson 18, 90) Att: 14,900

Sochaux 2 (Frau 14, Boudarene 53)
Troyes 2 (Meniri 11, Gousse 66) Att: 12,581

Thursday, February 7

Paris SG 1 (Dehu 77)
Bordeaux 0

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lens	24	15	6	3	40	16	51
Lyon	24	13	5	6	47	26	44
Paris SG	25	10	12	3	32	17	42
Auxerre	23	11	9	3	30	20	42
Troyes	23	10	6	7	30	24	36
Lille	24	9	9	6	28	24	36
Bordeaux	24	9	8	7	22	19	35
Sochaux	25	8	8	9	32	32	32
Montpellier	24	7	10	7	21	19	31
Monaco	25	8	7	10	27	29	31
Marseille	25	7	9	9	24	29	30
Nantes	25	8	5	12	24	31	29
Bastia	25	8	4	13	25	35	28
Sedan	23	6	9	8	26	26	27
Rennes	25	6	7	12	25	38	25
Guingamp	25	6	7	12	23	41	25
Metz	22	7	2	13	16	29	23
Lorient	25	6	5	14	34	51	23

LEADING GOALSCORERS
17 Pauleta (Bordeaux)
14 Jean-Claude Darcheville (Lorient)
13 Djibril Cisse (Auxerre)
11 Pierre-Alain Frau (Sochaux)
10 Nicolas Gousse (Troyes)
10 Shabani Nonda (Monaco)

FRENCH CUP – last 32

Jan 19: Bastia 2 Sochaux 1 (aet); Issy-les-Moulineaux 0 Amiens 1; Laval 0 Nimes 0 (aet; Nimes 5-3 on pens); Lens 0 Marseille 1; Libourne-St-Seurin 2 Metz 1 (aet); Louhans-Cuiseaux 2 Guingamp 0; Lusitanos 2 Bordeaux 0; Lyon 0 Chateauroux 2; Monaco 2 Montpellier 1; Rennes 1 Lorient 2; Saint-Priest 0 Nancy 2; US Change 0 Reims 3; US Montagnarde 4 La Roche-sur-Yon 2; Yzeure 0 Paris SG 1.
Jan 28: Sedan 1 Ajaccio 0.
Jan 30: Strasbourg 1 Troyes 0 (aet).

GERMANY

Saturday, January 26

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Zivkovic 76, Ballack pen 80)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 22,500

Borussia MG 0
Kaiserslautern 2 (Pletsch og 76, Pettersson 90) Att: 24,700

Freiburg 2 (Bruns 42, Iashvili 49)
Nurnberg 0 Att: 24,600

1860 Munich 3 (Max 56, Tyce 61, Suker 80)
Koln 0 Att: 20,000

Schalke 5 (Mpenza 34, Sand 35, Bohme 54, Van Hoogdalem 75, Oude Kamphuis 90)
Bayern Munich 1 (Scholl 48) Att: 60,683

St Pauli 3 (Meggle 51, Rath 75, Bajramovic 83)
Wolfsburg 1 (Kientz og 10) Att: 19,876

Stuttgart 3 (Ganea 27, Hertzsch og 32, Bordon 77)
Hamburg 0 Att: 26,000

Sunday, January 27

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Koller 7, 54, Worns 74)
Hertha 1 (Neuendorf 71) Att: 65,000

Energie Cottbus 2 (Matyus 41, Topic 79)
Werder Bremen 1 (Ailton 28) Att: 13,000

Saturday, February 2

Hamburg 2 (Prager 60, Romeo 81)
1860 Munich 1 (Weissenberger 89) Att: 34,026

Hertha 1 (Alves 57)
Freiburg 1 (Iashvili 37) Att: 25,146

Koln 0
Kaiserslautern 1 (Klose 57) Att: 27,000

Nurnberg 2 (Rink 60, Krzynowek pen 87)
Energie Cottbus 0 Att: 20,000

Schalke 2 (Wilmots 1, Asamoah 90)
Borussia MG 0 Att: 60,683

Werder Bremen 1 (Bode 39)
Stuttgart 2 (Ganea 62, Tiffert 84) Att: 26,000

Wolfsburg 1 (Maric pen 36)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Heinrich 3) Att: 17,226

Sunday, February 3

Bayern Munich 2 (Elber 67, Effenberg pen 71)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 43,000

Hansa Rostock 1 (Hirsch pen 82)
St Pauli 0 Att: 18,600

Tuesday, February 5

Borussia MG 4 (Munch pen 51, Van Lent 54, 60, 68)
Koln 0 Att: 32,200

Energie Cottbus 1 (Topic 85)
Hertha 0 Att: 15,600

Freiburg 0
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 24,000

1860 Munich 3 (Agostino 18, Max 68, Hassler pen 74)
Werder Bremen 1 (Lisztes 24) Att: 17,200

Stuttgart 2 (Bordon 24, Ganea 60)
Nurnberg 3 (Cacau 15, 26, Larsen 77) Att: 21,000

Wednesday, February 6

Bayer Leverkusen 0
Schalke 1 (Bohme 52) Att: 22,500

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Ewerthon 66, Amoroso 81)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 60,500

Kaiserslautern 2 (Basler 4, Klose 76)
Hamburg 2 (Romeo 11, Heinz 80) Att: 34,958

St Pauli 2 (Meggle 30, Patschinski 33)
Bayern Munich 1 (Sagnol 89) Att: 20,735

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Dortmund	21	14	4	3	36	14	46
B Leverkusen	21	13	3	5	46	27	42
Kaiserslautern	21	13	3	5	43	27	42
Schalke	21	11	5	5	31	22	38
Bayern Munich	21	11	4	6	38	18	37
Werder Bremen	21	11	3	7	34	26	36
Hertha	21	9	6	6	31	27	33
1860 Munich	21	10	3	8	33	33	33
Stuttgart	21	8	7	6	27	22	31
Wolfsburg	21	7	6	8	34	30	27
Hamburg	21	6	6	9	29	35	24
Freiburg	21	5	8	8	25	31	23
Hansa Rostock	21	6	4	11	18	29	22
Borussia MG	21	4	8	9	23	30	20
Energie Cottbus	21	5	5	11	18	36	20
Nurnberg	21	5	4	12	19	37	19
St Pauli	21	3	6	12	23	39	15
Koln	21	3	5	13	11	36	14

LEADING GOALSCORERS

11 Marcio Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)
10 Michael Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen)
10 Tomislav Maric (Wolfsburg)
10 Claudio Pizarro (Bayern Munich)
9 Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)
9 Miroslav Klose (Kaiserslautern)
9 Oliver Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen)
9 Arie Van Lent (Borussia MG)

GERMAN CUP – last 16

Jan 22: Hannover 96 1 Bayer Leverkusen 2.
Jan 23: Bayern Munich 2 Wolfsburg 1.

Quarter-finals

Jan 30: Bayer Leverkusen 3 1860 Munich 0; Hertha 1 Koln 2 (aet); Kaiserslautern 0 Bayern Munich 0 (aet; Bayern 5-3 on pens); Schalke 2 Rot-Weiss Oberhausen 0.

GREECE

Jan 12: Ethnikos A 0 Xanthi 0.
Jan 13: Panionios 1 Aris 0; Iraklis 3 AEK 2; Olympiakos 4 Panahaiki 0; OFI 4 Ionikos 0; Akratitos 1 PAOK 2; Panathinaikos 2 Aigaleo 1.
Jan 20: Ethnikos A 0 Panionios 2; Aris 1 Iraklis 1; Xanthi 1 Panathinaikos 2; AEK 2 Olympiakos 3; Aigaleo 0 OFI 0; Panahaiki 3 PAOK 3; Ionikos 2 Akratitos 1.
Jan 26: Akratitos 0 Aigaleo 1.
Jan 27: Panionios 0 Iraklis 1; Panathinaikos 1 Ethnikos A 0; Olympiakos 0 Aris 1; OFI 0 Xanthi 1; PAOK 3 AEK 2; Panahaiki 0 Ionikos 2.
Feb 2: Aris 2 PAOK 3.
Feb 3: Panathinaikos 2 Panionios 1; Iraklis 1 Olympiakos 1; Ethnikos A 2 OFI 3; Xanthi 3 Akratitos 0; AEK 4 Ionikos 0; Aigaleo 2 Panahaiki 1.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK	14	10	0	4	35	16	30
Olympiakos	14	8	5	1	34	16	29
PAOK	14	8	4	2	28	21	28
Panathinaikos	14	8	3	3	30	15	27
Xanthi	14	7	4	3	22	13	25
OFI	14	6	3	5	18	16	21
Iraklis	14	5	6	3	17	17	21
Aris	14	5	5	4	17	16	20
Panionios	14	4	4	6	17	23	16
Ethnikos A	14	3	3	8	12	20	12
Aigaleo	14	3	3	8	16	28	12
Ionikos	14	2	5	7	11	26	11
Akratitos	14	2	3	9	13	22	9
Panahaiki	14	1	4	9	13	34	7

HOLLAND

Friday, January 25

Sparta 1 (Van der Meer 74)
Heerenveen 4 (Marilia og 7, G De Nooijer 76, Lurling 85, Nurmela 89) Att: 8,286

Saturday, January 26

AZ 3 (Huiberts 6, Nelisse 22, Perez 51)
Groningen 2 (Johansson pen 49, Tuhuteru 88) Att: 6,696

De Graafschap 5 (Van den Brom 27, Van Vossen 40, 68, Van Leerdam 78, Meerdink 89)
Fortuna 0 Att: 10,250

PSV 3 (Bouma 5, Rommedahl 13, Bruggink 46)
NAC 1 (Cristiano 85) Att: 32,000

Roda JC 2 (Vicelich 78, Sonko 79)
Twente 1 (Vrede og 2) Att: 14,000

Sunday, January 27

Den Bosch 0
Ajax 1 (Van der Meyde 13) Att: 6,155

RKC 0
Willem II 1 (Sektioui 22) Att: 5,600

Utrecht 2 (Van den Bergh 4, Tanghe 37)
Feyenoord 2 (Tomasson 2, Van Hooijdonk 62) Att: 13,500

Vitesse 2 (Peeters 35, Van der Schaaf pen 48)
NEC 1 (Demouge 10) Att: 24,600

Thursday, January 31

Willem II 3 (Shoukov 17, Landzaat pen 64, 79)
Groningen 1 (Tuhuteru 37) Att: 12,730

Friday, February 1

NEC 1 (De Nooijer 65)
Sparta 1 (Mendes da Silva 33) Att: 9,500

Saturday, February 2

AZ 0
Vitesse 0 Att: 7,136

Den Bosch 1 (Van den Eede 44)
RKC 0 Att: 5,355

Fortuna 0
PSV 1 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 5) Att: 8,000

Twente 0
De Graafschap 0 Att: 13,400

Sunday, February 3

Feyenoord 5 (Emerton 2, 51, Van Hooijdonk pen 4, 64, Tomasson 69)
Roda JC 0 Att: 37,000

Groningen 3 (Boussaboun pen 53, Hugo 70, Robben 83)
NAC 0 Att: 11,500

Utrecht 0
Heerenveen 0 Att: 13,500

Willem II 1 (Ceesay 43)
Ajax 3 (Victoria og 59, Machlas 90, Ikedia 90) Att: 14,700

Tuesday, February 5

RKC 2 (Hoogendorp 23, Putter 83)
PSV 1 (Gakhokidze 61) Att: 5,500

Wednesday, February 6

Feyenoord 1 (Tomasson 68)
Fortuna 0 Att: 32,000

NAC 2 (Bobson 12, Salmon 72)
Sparta 2 (Sanou 35, Conteh pen 90) Att: 11,589

Roda JC 1 (Vandenbroeck 74)
Utrecht 0 Att: 13,500

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	20	13	3	4	46	16	42
Ajax	20	13	3	4	46	24	42
PSV	22	12	4	6	45	26	40
Heerenveen	21	10	6	5	36	16	36
NAC	22	10	5	7	38	36	35
Utrecht	22	9	7	6	42	30	34
Vitesse	21	9	7	5	23	22	34
RKC	22	9	4	9	29	24	31
Willem II	22	6	10	6	35	36	28
NEC	21	7	5	9	17	33	26
Den Bosch	20	6	7	7	29	28	25
AZ	20	7	4	9	22	25	25
Roda JC	22	7	4	11	21	33	25
Twente	21	4	10	7	24	29	22
De Graafschap	20	6	4	10	27	33	22
Groningen	22	6	4	12	26	45	22
Sparta	21	4	9	8	22	41	21
Fortuna	21	2	4	15	19	50	10

LEADING GOALSCORERS

17 Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Feyenoord)
14 Jon Dahl Tomasson (Feyenoord)
14 Rafael Van der Vaart (Ajax)
13 Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (PSV)
11 Marcus Allback (Heerenveen)
11 Rick Hoogendorp (RKC)

DUTCH CUP – quarter-finals

Jan 30: PSV 1 Feyenoord 1 (aet; PSV 7-6 on pens); Utrecht 3 Heerenveen 1.
Feb 7: Ajax 4 Groningen 0; Ajax 2 (reserves) 3 Stormvogels/Telstar 0.

ITALY

Sunday, January 13

Atalanta 2 (Doni pen 10, Berretta 23)
Bologna 2 (Olive 41, Brioschi 90) Att: 15,000

Chievo 2 (Corini pen 46, D'Anna 87)
Fiorentina 2 (Nuno Gomes 12, Adriano 90) Att: 11,585

Milan 0
Brescia 0 Att: 50,000

Parma 1 (Djetou 56)
Lecce 1 (Vugrinec 88) Att: 15,000

Perugia 0
Inter 2 (Vieri 58, Recoba 73) Att: 18,866

Piacenza 1 (Hubner 70)
Lazio 0 Att: 7,507

Roma 3 (Assuncao 54, Cassano 63, Batistuta 90)
Verona 2 (Mutu 45, 53) Att: 52,459

Torino 3 (Lucarelli pen 28, 83, Maspero 69)
Udinese 1 (Iaquinta 46) Att: 13,543

Venezia 1 (Magallanes 58)
Juventus 2 (Trezeguet 9, Iuliano 75) Att: 11,475

Saturday, January 19

Brescia 1 (Ylana 53)
Torino 2 (Ferrante 83, Vergassola 87) Att: 13,060

Sunday, January 20

Bologna 3 (Zauli 38, 90, Cruz 70)
Chievo 1 (Beghetto 73) Att: 21,652

Fiorentina 1 (Adriano 90)
Milan 1 (Jose Mari 52) Att: 25,000

Inter 2 (Sensini og 4, Vieri 84)
Parma 0 Att: 53,737

Juventus 3 (Tacchinardi 34, Trezeguet 38, 73)
Atalanta 0 Att: 37,605

Lazio 5 (Inzaghi 9, Claudio Lopez 33, Fiore 52, Stankovic 57, Negro 64)
Perugia 0 Att: 35,000

Lecce 0
Piacenza 0 Att: 11,589

Udinese 1 (Di Michele 48)
Roma 1 (Batistuta 82) Att: 17,000

Verona 1 (Oddo 16)
Venezia 0 Att: 11,946

Saturday, January 26

Parma 2 (Nervo og 6, Hakan 16)
Bologna 1 (Pecchia 52) Att: 17,286

Sunday, January 27

Atalanta 2 (Inacio 35, Doni 75)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 14,317

Chievo 1 (Marazzina 59)
Juventus 3 (Ferrara 17, Moro og 47, Del Piero pen 72) Att: 33,998

Lecce 1 (Chevanton 27)
Brescia 3 (Toni 7, 64, E Filippini 90) Att: 12,653

Milan 2 (Shevchenko pen 6, Serginho 14)
Udinese 3 (Muzzi 34, Scarlato 52, Jorgensen 78) Att: 48,849

Perugia 3 (Rezaei 58, Ahn 67, Tedesco 85)
Verona 1 (Frick 17) Att: 6,882

Roma 2 (Assuncao 14, Batistuta 77)
Piacenza 0 Att: 53,422

Torino 1 (Lucarelli 62)
Lazio 0 Att: 15,469

Venezia 1 (Maniero pen 70)
Inter 1 (Vieri 28) Att: 11,718

Wednesday, January 30

Chievo 3 (Marazzina 46, Corini 77, pen 88)
Lazio 1 (Claudio Lopez 7) Att: 16,000

Saturday, February 2

Inter 0
Torino 0 Att: 56,197

Sunday, February 3

Bologna 1 (Bellucci 59)
Venezia 1 (Maniero 23) Att: 17,784

Brescia 1 (Toni 68)
Parma 4 (Micoud 5, Hakan 7, Di Vaio 19, 90) Att: 12,330

Fiorentina 2 (Morfeo 16, Adriano 18)
Roma 2 (Cassano 54, Emerson 75) Att: 32,234

Juventus 3 (Conte 14, Trezeguet 57, Del Piero pen 60)
Lecce 0 Att: 37,662

Lazio 1 (Stankovic 21)
Milan 1 (Shevchenko 90) Att: 39,237

Piacenza 2 (Hubner pen 45, Di Francesco 62)
Chievo 2 (Marazzina 32, Cossato 83) Att: 7,150

Udinese 0
Perugia 0 Att: 12,971

Verona 3 (Italiano 9, Mutu pen 43, Oddo pen 90)
Atalanta 1 (Doni 80) Att: 14,648

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roma	21	12	8	1	33	14	44
Juventus	21	12	7	2	41	15	43
Inter	21	12	7	2	36	17	43
Chievo	21	11	4	6	39	31	37
Milan	21	8	9	4	30	23	33
Bologna	21	9	5	7	22	22	32
Verona	21	9	4	8	30	31	31
Lazio	21	7	8	6	28	18	29
Torino	21	7	6	8	24	25	27
Udinese	21	7	5	9	29	34	26
Perugia	21	7	5	9	23	29	26
Atalanta	21	7	4	10	27	37	25
Parma	21	6	6	9	28	32	24
Piacenza	21	6	5	10	26	29	23
Brescia	21	5	7	9	25	37	22
Lecce	21	4	7	10	20	32	19
Fiorentina	21	4	5	12	23	42	17
Venezia	21	2	6	13	18	34	12

LEADING GOALSCORERS

14 Marco Di Vaio (Parma)
14 Cristiano Doni (Atalanta)
14 Dario Hubner (Piacenza)
14 David Trezeguet (Juventus)
14 Christian Vieri (Inter)
13 Andrii Shevchenko (Milan)

ITALIAN CUP – quarter-finals

2nd legs
Jan 16: Lazio 2 Milan 3 *Milan 5-3 on agg.*
Jan 17: Atalanta 2 Juventus 1 *Juventus 5-4 on agg.*

Semi-finals

1st legs
Jan 23: Milan 1 Juventus 2.
Jan 31: Parma 2 Brescia 0.

2nd legs
Feb 6: Juventus 1 Milan 1 *Juventus 3-2 on agg.*
Feb 7: Brescia 2 Parma 1 *Parma 3-2 on agg.*

PORTUGAL

Friday, January 11

Gil Vicente 2 (Ricardo Fernandes 7, Paulo Alves 10)
Guimaraes 1 (Ceara 36)

Saturday, January 12

Benfica 3 (Simao 47, Jankauskas 53, Carlitos 61)
Varzim 2 (Marco Freitas 9, Margarido 44)

Farense 2 (Ferreira 56, 74)
Salgueiros 1 (Toy 15)

FC Porto 2 (Jorge Andrade pen 6, Deco 72)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Pedro Barbosa 32, Jardel pen 35)

Sunday, January 13

Alverca 3 (Zeferino 78, Tinaia 88, Rui Borges 90)
Santa Clara 1 (Tonito 43)

Belenenses 1 (Verona 89)
Pacos Ferreira 2 (Ze Nando 1, Ze Manuel 44)

Setubal 0
Maritimo 1 (Eric Gaucho 75)

Uniao Leiria 3 (Ricardo Rocha og 2, Jacques 40, Derlei 84)
Sporting Braga 1 (Curcija 72)

Monday, January 14

Beira Mar 0
Boavista 3 (Silva pen 52, Alexandre 76, Serginho 86)

Friday, January 18

Guimaraes 3 (Guga 44, Fangueiro 60, Romeu 86)
Farense 1 (Flamarion og 3)

Saturday, January 19

Salgueiros 1 (Joao Pedro 45)
Benfica 4 (Julio Cesar 18, Jankauskas 48, 73, Simao 88)

Sunday, January 20

Boavista 2 (Petit 44, Martelinho 89)
FC Porto 0

Maritimo 3 (Danny 10, Eric Gaucho 40, 88)
Beira Mar 1 (Lobao 50)

Pacos Ferreira 2 (Gouveia 44, Mauro 50)
Alverca 2 (Quinzinho 81, Zeferino 89)

Santa Clara 1 (Brandao 65)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Derlei 88)

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Jardel 28, 82)
Belenenses 0

Varzim 2 (Paulo Piedade 43, Vinicius 64)
Setubal 1 (Rui Miguel 3)

Monday, January 21

Sporting Braga 1 (Barata 5)
Gil Vicente 0

Saturday, January 26

Alverca 1 (Caju 55)
Sporting Lisbon 3 (Jardel 26, 50, pen 80)

Guimaraes 3 (Rogerio Matias 40, Romeu 41, Ceara 77)
Salgueiros 0

FC Porto 2 (Briguel og 19, Helder Postiga 41)
Maritimo 1 (Alain 54)

Sunday, January 27

Beira Mar 4 (Rui Dolores 41, 65, Gamboa 51, 56)
Varzim 0

Belenenses 0
Boavista 2 (Silva 1, Alexandre 89)

Farense 2 (Carlos Costa 32, Djurdjevic 42)
Sporting Braga 2 (Miran 64, 90)

Gil Vicente 1 (Sergio Nunes pen 85)
Santa Clara 3 (Brandao 5, Tonito 20, Rui Gregorio pen 86)

Setubal 1 (Ico 58)
Benfica 1 (Carlitos 20)

Uniao Leiria 2 (Derlei 43, Maciel 77)
Pacos Ferreira 1 (Carlos Carneiro 90)

Friday, February 1

Boavista 2 (Silva 65, Sanchez 89)
Alverca 0

Saturday, February 2

Sporting Braga 0
Guimaraes 0

Sporting Lisbon 4 (Jardel 20, pen 45, 88, Ricardo Quaresma 23)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Silas 78)

Sunday, February 3

Benfica 4 (Simao 41, Jankauskas 46, 81, Mantorras 90)
Beira Mar 1 (Juninho Petrolina 6)

Maritimo 0
Belenenses 2 (Verona 40, Djalmir 80)

Pacos Ferreira 2 (Pedrinha pen 23, Carlos Carneiro 43)
Gil Vicente 0

Salgueiros 0
Setubal 2 (Ico 10, Jorginho 75)

Santa Clara 2 (Glaedson 75, Gabor Vaver 89)
Farense 0

Varzim 0
FC Porto 1 (Deco pen 79)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Lisbon	21	14	4	3	49	17	46
Boavista	21	14	3	4	37	13	45
Benfica	21	10	9	2	38	23	39
FC Porto	21	12	3	6	34	19	39
Uniao Leiria	21	10	7	4	37	22	37
Guimaraes	21	9	5	7	26	21	32
Belenenses	21	9	4	8	28	30	31
Santa Clara	21	8	6	7	22	25	30
Maritimo	21	9	2	10	26	25	29
Sporting Braga	21	7	7	7	27	20	28
Pacos Ferreira	21	7	7	7	27	31	28
Gil Vicente	21	7	3	11	24	36	24
Setubal	21	5	6	10	23	25	21
Beira Mar	21	5	6	10	33	38	21
Salgueiros	21	6	3	12	19	44	21
Alverca	21	5	4	12	25	42	19
Farense	21	5	4	12	17	34	19
Varzim	21	3	5	13	15	42	14

LEADING GOALSCORERS

28	Mario Jardel (Sporting Lisbon)
16	Derlei (Uniao Leiria)
12	Fary Faye (Beira Mar)
10	Leonardo (Pacos Ferreira)
9	Mantorras (Benfica)
8	Deco (FC Porto)
8	Silva (Boavista)

PORTUGUESE CUP – quarter-fnls

Jan 16: Leixoes 3 Portimonense 1; FC Porto 1 Sporting Braga 2; Salgueiros 2 Maritimo 2 (aet); Vila Real 0 Sporting Lisbon 4.

Quarter-final replay

Jan 30: Maritimo 0 Salgueiros 0 (aet; Maritimo 8-7 on pens).

Semi-finals

Feb 6: Sporting Lisbon 3 Maritimo 2 (aet).

Still to play: Sporting Braga v Leixoes.

SCOTLAND

Saturday, January 12

Dundee 1 (Fan 66)
Hibernian 0 Att: 7,326

Hearts 3 (Gronlund 38, Fulton 56, Wales 63)
Aberdeen 1 (Bisconti 45) Att: 12,902

Kilmarnock 0
Celtic 2 (Hartson pen 51, Lambert 61) Att: 11,689

Motherwell 2 (McFadden 51, Hammell 80)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 4,631

Rangers 3 (Flo 30, Caniggia 35, 87)
Livingston 0 Att: 48,044

St Johnstone 0
Dunfermline 1 (Mason 80) Att: 3,459

Saturday, January 19

Aberdeen 0
Rangers 1 (Amoruso 36) Att: 17,846

Celtic 2 (Larsson 9, Thompson 11)
St Johnstone 1 (Dods 6) Att: 58,547

Dundee Utd 1 (McIntyre 90)
Dundee 0 Att: 12,851

Dunfermline 3 (Skerla 25, Mason 49, Bullen 59)
Motherwell 1 (McFadden 77) Att: 4,280

Hibernian 2 (Hurtado 11, Fowler og 63)
Kilmarnock 2 (Johnson 65, Boyd 90) Att: 9,592

Livingston 2 (Bingham 54, Fernandez 66)
Hearts 0 Att: 9,150

Tuesday, January 22

St Johnstone 1 (Youssouf 65)
Dundee Utd 4 (Lilley 29, 45, 52, Miller 37) Att: 3,711

Wednesday, January 23

Celtic 2 (Larsson 80, 86)
Hearts 0 Att: 57,203

Dunfermline 2 (S M Thomson 17, 33)
Rangers 4 (Vidmar 48, De Boer 54, 63, Arveladze pen 81) Att: 8,795

Hibernian 3 (Luna 18, 68, Townsley 37)
Aberdeen 4 (Dadi 17, Winters 27, Guntveit 48, Mackie 90) Att: 10,555

Motherwell 2 (McFadden 13, Lehmann 27)
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 4,342

Tuesday, January 29

Aberdeen 0
Dundee 0 Att: 10,127

Wednesday, January 30

Kilmarnock 2 (Boyd 85, Johnson pen 90)
Rangers 2 (De Boer 34, Flo 55) Att: 11,589

Livingston 1 (Quino 5)
Celtic 3 (Moravcik 58, Larsson 61, Hartson 72) Att: 8,437

Saturday, February 2

Dundee Utd 0
Kilmarnock 2 (Dargo 3, McGowne 65) Att: 5,774

Dunfermline 1 (S M Thomson 54)
Hearts 1 (Adam 90) Att: 5,527

Hibernian 1 (O'Connor 21)
Celtic 1 (Hartson 50) Att: 12,315

Motherwell 1 (Soloy 38)
Livingston 2 (Andrews 45, Quino 71) Att: 4,458

Rangers 2 (Arveladze 74, Moore 77)
Dundee 1 (Rae 71) Att: 48,861

St Johnstone 0
Aberdeen 1 (Dadi 44) Att: 4,305

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	27	24	2	1	63	14	74
Rangers	27	18	7	2	61	22	61
Livingston	26	13	7	6	38	24	46
Aberdeen	27	12	4	11	37	39	40
Kilmarnock	27	10	6	11	29	32	36
Hearts	27	10	5	12	35	34	35
Dunfermline	26	9	5	12	31	43	32
Dundee Utd	27	8	7	12	28	46	31
Dundee	25	7	6	12	24	37	27
Motherwell	27	7	6	14	35	50	27
Hibernian	27	5	9	13	33	43	24
St Johnstone	27	3	4	20	17	47	13

LEADING GOALSCORERS

20	Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
16	Tore Andre Flo (Rangers)
13	John Hartson (Celtic)
11	Shota Arveladze (Rangers)
10	Robbie Winters (Aberdeen)
8	James McFadden (Motherwell)
8	Hicham Zerouali (Aberdeen)

SCOTTISH CUP – 3rd rnd (last 32)

Jan 14: Albion 1 Livingston 4.
Jan 15: Berwick 0 Rangers 0.
Jan 16: Gala Fairydean 0 Forfar 5.

3rd rnd replays

Jan 15: Hibernian 4 Stranraer 0.
Jan 16: Falkirk 0 Dundee 1.
Jan 21: Rangers 3 Berwick 0.

4th rnd (last 16)

Jan 26: Aberdeen 2 Livingston 0; Ayr 3 Dunfermline 0; Clyde 1 Forfar 2; Hearts 1 Inverness Caledonian Thistle 3; Kilmarnock 0 Celtic 2; Partick 1 Dundee 1; Rangers 4 Hibernian 1.
Feb 4: Dundee Utd 4 Hamilton 0.

4th rnd replay

Feb 6: Dundee 1 Partick 2.

SPAIN

Saturday, January 12

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Tiko 40, 59)
Real Sociedad 1 (De Pedro 45) Att: 39,000

Villarreal 1 (Victor pen 65)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Quevedo 90) Att: 17,000

Sunday, January 13

Alaves 1 (Magno 11)
Tenerife 0 Att: 13,105

Barcelona 3 (Rivaldo 8, 61, Gabri 56)
Sevilla 1 (Tomas 5) Att: 45,000

Betis 1 (Juanito 46)
Malaga 1 (Litos 67) Att: 40,000

Celta Vigo 1 (Vagner 24)
Osasuna 1 (Crubxaga 62) Att: 18,000

Las Palmas 3 (Josico 25, Schurrer 89, Nacho Gonzalez pen 90)
Mallorca 1 (Luque 73) Att: 16,000

Real Madrid 1 (Morientes 70)
Valencia 0 Att: 71,529

Valladolid 3 (Marcos 31, Fernando 32, 57)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 13,000

Zaragoza 0
Espanyol 0 Att: 24,000

Saturday, January 19

Malaga 1 (Dely Valdes 25)
Real Madrid 1 (Morientes 67) Att: 20,000

Real Sociedad 1 (Kovacevic 7)
Alaves 2 (Cruyff 76, Magno 86) Att: 28,000

Sunday, January 20

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Nacho Gonzalez og 66)
Las Palmas 0 Att: 27,000

Espanyol 1 (Palencia 78)
Betis 1 (Joao Tomas 88) Att: 21,800

Mallorca 3 (Luque 36, Engonga pen 70, Losada 90)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 15,000

Osasuna 2 (Aloisi 3, Pizzi og 43)
Villarreal 2 (Guayre 24, 61) Att: 17,120

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bolic 25, De Quintana 60)
Barcelona 1 (Xavi 55) Att: 15,500

Sevilla 4 (Reyes 19, Olivera 50, 52, Victor Salas 90)
Zaragoza 2 (Acuna 13, Galletti 64) Att: 35,000

Tenerife 1 (Bino 27)
Celta Vigo 1 (Catanha 72) Att: 11,000

Valencia 1 (Pellegrino 25)
Valladolid 2 (Luis Garcia pen 19, Fernando Sales 34) Att: 40,000

Wednesday, January 23

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Peragon pen 52, Bolic 76)
Alaves 0 Att: 9,000

Saturday, January 26

Celta Vigo 3 (Mostovoi 58, 65, Edu 90)
Real Sociedad 1 (Khokhlov 25) Att: 20,000

Las Palmas 0
Valencia 1 (Mista 7) Att: 17,000

Sunday, January 27

Alaves 0
Mallorca 4 (Losada 6, 56, Luque 12, Campano pen 82) Att: 13,107

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Ezquerro 69)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Djalminha 64) Att: 39,000

Barcelona 0
Osasuna 1 (Alfredo 82) Att: 40,000

Real Madrid 1 (Ivan Helguera 44)
Betis 1 (Juanito 89) Att: 67,140

Sevilla 3 (Moises 46, 49, Reyes 81)
Espanyol 0 Att: 35,000

Valladolid 0
Malaga 0 Att: 13,000

Villarreal 2 (Jorge Lopez 42, Pizzi 43)
Tenerife 1 (Marioni 51) Att: 17,000

Zaragoza 3 (Acuna 52, Milosevic 65, 73)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bolic 22, Michel 85) Att: 24,000

Saturday, February 2

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Alaves 1 (Astudillo 42) Att: 27,000

Mallorca 0
Celta Vigo 1 (Jesuli 25) Att: 17,000

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Quevedo 25, Bolic 34)
Sevilla 1 (Reyes 3) Att: 14,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Aranburu 75, De Paula 86)
Villarreal 1 (Arruabarrena 80) Att: 23,000

Tenerife 0
Barcelona 6 (Puyol 15, Kluivert 45, 49, 66, 70, David Charcos og 72) Att: 22,000

Sunday, February 3

Betis 2 (Amato 18, 80)
Valladolid 0 Att: 35,000

Espanyol 2 (De Lucas 33, Tamudo 74)
Real Madrid 1 (Raul 1) Att: 47,900

Malaga 1 (Musampa 73)
Las Palmas 1 (Fernando Sanz og 9) Att: 9,000

Osasuna 0
Zaragoza 0 Att: 18,385

Valencia 2 (Mista 13, Rufete 64)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Etxeberria 71) Att: 45,000

Tuesday, February 5

Celta Vigo 0
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Diego Tristan 32, 65) Att: 22,000

Wednesday, February 6

Alaves 1 (Astudillo 2)
Valencia 2 (De los Santos 3, Carew 27) Att: 13,425

Athletic Bilbao 3 (Alkiza 5, Ezquerro 33, Alkorta 90)
Malaga 2 (Canabal 29, Dely Valdes 76) Att: 23,000

Barcelona 2 (Rivaldo 58, Saviola 77)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 40,000

Las Palmas 0
Betis 0 Att: 15,950

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Michel 34, Azkoitia 54)
Espanyol 2 (Pacheco 56, Oscar 90) Att: 7,000

Sevilla 0
Osasuna 0 Att: 2,500

Valladolid 2 (Fernando 59, Jesus 89)
Real Madrid 1 (Morientes 73) Att: 18,000

Villarreal 2 (Jorge Lopez 28, Victor 71)
Mallorca 1 (Losada 68) Att: 15,000

Zaragoza 1 (Galletti 68)
Tenerife 1 (Ivan Ania 39) Att: 14,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valencia	24	11	9	4	29	21	42
Celta Vigo	24	10	10	4	42	27	40
Real Madrid	24	11	7	6	41	28	40
Dep La Coruna	24	12	4	8	37	30	40
Barcelona	24	11	6	7	39	21	39
Alaves	24	12	3	9	24	21	39
Betis	24	10	8	6	25	21	38
Athletic Bilbao	24	10	8	6	34	34	38
Valladolid	24	10	5	9	27	37	35
Sevilla	24	9	7	8	38	29	34
Villarreal	24	8	6	10	27	29	30
Espanyol	24	8	6	10	29	38	30
Las Palmas	24	7	8	9	24	20	29
Osasuna	24	7	8	9	21	27	29
Zaragoza	24	8	5	11	24	34	29
Malaga	24	6	10	8	27	30	28
Mallorca	24	7	5	12	28	32	26
Rayo Vallecano	24	6	6	12	29	40	24
Tenerife	24	6	5	13	17	34	23
Real Sociedad	24	6	4	14	28	37	22

LEADING GOALSCORERS

11	Catanha (Celta Vigo)
11	Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona)
11	Raul (Real Madrid)
10	Diego Tristan (Deportivo La Coruna)
10	Alberto Luque (Mallorca)
10	Moises (Sevilla)
10	Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid)
10	Ismael Urzaiz (Athletic Bilbao)

SPANISH CUP – quarter-finals

2nd legs
Jan 15: Athletic Bilbao 1 Villarreal 0 *Bilbao 3-0 on agg.*
Jan 16: Figueres 0 Cordoba 0 *Figueres 2-0 on agg;* Rayo Vallecano 1 Real Madrid 0 *Madrid 4-1 on agg;* Valladolid 2 Deportivo La Coruna 1 (aet) *Deportivo 3-2 on agg.*

Semi-finals

1st legs
Jan 23: Athletic Bilbao 2 Real Madrid 1.
Jan 24: Figueres 0 Deportivo La Coruna 1.

2nd legs
Jan 30: Deportivo La Coruna 1 Figueres 1 *Deportivo 2-1 on agg.*
Jan 31: Real Madrid 3 Athletic Bilbao 0 *Madrid 4-2 on agg.*

ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

GOLDEN SHOE

ESM GOLDEN SHOE STANDINGS AT 07.02.02

pos	name	team	goals	factor	pts
1	Mario Jardel	Sporting Lisbon (Por)	28	1.5	42
2	Maksim Gruznov	Trans Narva (Est)	37	1	37
3	Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink	Chelsea (Eng)	18	2	36
	Thierry Henry	Arsenal (Eng)	18	2	36
	Ruud Van Nistelrooy	Manchester Utd (Eng)	18	2	36
6	Pauleta	Bordeaux (Fra)	17	2	34
7	Ronald Brunmayr	Grazer AK (Aut)	22	1.5	33
8	Christian Gimenez	Lugano/Basle (Swi)	21	1.5	31.5
	Wesley Sonck	Genk (Blg)	21	1.5	31.5
10	Henrik Larsson	Celtic (Sco)	20	1.5	30
11	Jean-Claude Darcheville	Lorient (Fra)	14	2	28
	Marco Di Vaio	Parma (Ita)	14	2	28
	Cristiano Doni	Atalanta (Ita)	14	2	28
	Dario Hubner	Piacenza (Ita)	14	2	28
	Alan Shearer	Newcastle (Eng)	14	2	28
	David Trezeguet	Juventus (Ita)	14	2	28
	Christian Vieri	Internazionale (Ita)	14	2	28
18	Dmitriy Vyazmikin	Torpedo Moscow (Rus)	18	1.5	27
19	Djibril Cisse	Auxerre (Fra)	13	2	26
	Andrii Shevchenko	Milan (Ita)	13	2	26
21	Thorstein Helstad	Brann Bergen (Nor)	17	1.5	25.5
	Frode Johnsen	Rosenborg (Nor)	17	1.5	25.5
	Ricardo Nunez	Grasshopper (Swi)	17	1.5	25.5
	Pierre Van Hooijdonk	Feyenoord (Hol)	17	1.5	25.5
	Clayton Zane	Lillestrom (Nor)	17	1.5	25.5
26	Sergei Davydov	Neman-Belkard (Bls)	25	1	25

For the latest standings, updated twice weekly, visit www.worldsoccer.com

TURKEY

Jan 15: Galatasaray 5 Kocaelispor 1.
Jan 18: Samsunspor 1 Fenerbahce 0.
Jan 19: Diyarbakirspor 1 Genclerbirligi 2; Malatyaspor 2 Istanbulspor 0; Ankaragucu 2 Antalyaspor 0; Galatasaray 2 Gaziantepspor 0.
Jan 20: Bursaspor 0 Goztepe 0; Yozgatspor 0 Denizlispor 1; Kocaelispor 2 Rizespor 1; Trabzonspor 0 Besiktas 5 (abandoned after 85mins).
Jan 22: Fenerbahce 2 Istanbulspor 0; Malatyaspor 4 Ankaragucu 1.
Jan 23: Goztepe 3 Diyarbakirspor 1; Rizespor 1 Yozgatspor 1; Antalyaspor 2 Kocaelispor 0; Samsunspor 0 Genclerbirligi 2; Gaziantepspor 5 Trabzonspor 2; Denizlispor 1 Galatasaray 1.
Jan 24: Besiktas 2 Bursaspor 1.
Jan 26: Ankaragucu 3 Fenerbahce 2.
Jan 27: Denizlispor 5 Gaziantepspor 2; Samsunspor 1 Goztepe 2; Malatyaspor 2 Kocaelispor 1; Diyarbakirspor 0 Besiktas 0; Istanbulspor 0 Genclerbirligi 0; Galatasaray 4 Rizespor 1; Bursaspor 2 Trabzonspor 2; Yozgatspor 3 Antalyaspor 2.
Feb 1: Fenerbahce 3 Kocaelispor 0.
Feb 2: Besiktas 0 Samsunspor 0; Rizespor 3 Denizlispor 1; Trabzonspor 0 Diyarbakirspor 2; Gaziantepspor 5 Bursaspor 2.
Feb 3: Genclerbirligi 0 Ankaragucu 1; Goztepe 0 Istanbulspor 0; Malatyaspor 2 Yozgatspor 1; Antalyaspor 1 Galatasaray 1.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	21	14	5	2	54	26	47
Besiktas	21	13	5	3	52	24	44
Fenerbahce	21	13	1	7	43	23	40
Ankaragucu	21	11	3	7	47	34	36
Gaziantepspor	21	10	4	7	37	30	34
Istanbulspor	21	9	5	7	19	19	32
Kocaelispor	21	8	4	9	27	34	28
Bursaspor	21	8	4	9	27	35	28
Goztepe	21	7	7	7	18	32	28
Trabzonspor	21	7	5	9	32	35	26
Denizlispor	21	6	7	8	38	31	25
Diyarbakirspor	21	7	4	10	32	37	25
Malatyaspor	21	8	0	13	23	40	24
Rizespor	21	5	8	8	26	30	23
Genclerbirligi	21	5	7	9	28	36	22
Samsunspor	21	6	4	11	18	30	22
Antalyaspor	21	5	6	10	29	45	21
Yozgatspor	21	5	5	11	29	38	20

SOUTH AMERICA

MERCOSUR CUP

Final, 2nd leg

Jan 24 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo (Arg) 1 (Estevez 67)
Flamengo (Bra) 1 (Leandro Machado 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Agg 1-1. San Lorenzo 4-3 on pens

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, February 1

Chacarita Juniors 0
Talleres Cordoba 1 (La Paglia pen 44)

Saturday, February 2

San Lorenzo 2 (Franco 59, Filomeno 78)
Estudiantes 2 (Maggiolo 27, Quatrocchi 71)

Sunday, February 3

Colon Santa Fe 0
Union Santa Fe 0

Gimnasia LP 2 (Enria 49, Choy 67)
Huracan 2 (De Porras 36, Morquio 90)

Lanus 1 (Romero 21)
Argentinos Juniors 0

Tuesday, February 5

Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Obolo 82)
Nueva Chicago 2 (Jesus 36, Mandra 87)

Independiente 0
Banfield 3 (Lujambio 23, 43, Bueno 82)

Newell's Old Boys 2 (Crosa 10, Rodriguez 57)
Boca Juniors 2 (Gaitan 9, Carreno 45)

ARGENTINA: OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Racing Club	19	12	6	1	34	17	42
River Plate	19	12	5	2	51	16	41
Boca Juniors	19	9	6	4	41	27	33
Colon Santa Fe	19	8	8	3	24	16	32
San Lorenzo	19	8	7	4	28	22	31
Estudiantes	19	7	6	6	27	28	27
Gimnasia LP	19	7	6	6	30	35	27
Chacarita Jnrs	19	6	8	5	28	24	26
Belgrano Cordoba	19	6	8	5	17	18	26
Independiente	19	7	5	7	26	28	26
Argentinos Jnrs	19	7	4	8	22	27	25
Lanus	19	7	4	8	21	28	25
Nueva Chicago	19	7	3	9	26	33	24
Newell's OB	19	6	5	8	29	28	23
Velez Sarsfield	19	5	7	7	27	30	22
Rosario Central	19	5	5	9	18	26	20
Union Santa Fe	19	3	9	7	23	25	18
Banfield	19	4	6	9	16	24	18
Huracan	19	3	5	11	22	39	14
Talleres Cordoba	19	4	1	14	18	37	13

TOP GOALSCORERS

17 Martin Cardetti (River Plate)
11 Diego Forlan (Independiente)
11 Facundo Sava (Gimnasia LP)
10 Ernesto Farias (Estudiantes)
9 Esteban Cambiasso (River Plate)
9 Ariel Jesus (Nueva Chicago)
9 Maximiliano Rodriguez (Newell's Old Boys)

ECUADOR

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 1: El Nacional 4 Espoli 0; Emelec 6 Dep Cuenca 0.
Feb 2: Olmedo 1 LDU Quito 1.
Feb 3: Aucas 0 Barcelona 1; Macara 0 Dep Quito 0.

ECUADOR – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Emelec	1	1	0	0	6	0	3
El Nacional	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Barcelona	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
LDU Quito	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Olmedo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Dep Quito	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Macara	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Aucas	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Espoli	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Dep Cuenca	1	0	0	1	0	6	0

URUGUAY

CLASSIFICATION STAGE

Feb 2: Dep Maldonado 1 Plaza 2; Penarol 2 Fenix 2.
Feb 3: Central Espanol 0 Nacional 5; Bella Vista P 0 Defensor 2; Wanderers 1 Villa Espanola 0; Cerro 0 Danubio 2; Racing 3 Bella Vista M 2; River Plate 2 Progreso 0; Tacuarembo 2 Juventud 1.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Danubio	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
River Plate	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Fenix	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Bella Vista M	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Villa Espanola	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Progreso	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Racing	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Wanderers	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Penarol	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Cerro	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Central Espanol	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plaza	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Tacuarembo	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Juventud	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Dep Maldonado	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Bella Vista P	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Top two from each group, plus the four best teams overall other than the group top twos, qualify for opening and closing championships

VENEZUELA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Jan 27: Mineros Guayana 1 Galicia 1; Caracas 1 Estudiantes 1; Trujillanos 0 Nacional 1; Ital-Chacao 2 Dep Tachira 0; Portuguesa 3 Monagas 5.
Jan 30: Galicia 4 Portuguesa 2; Monagas 1 Dep Tachira 1; Ital-Chacao 1 Trujillanos 0; Nacional 1 Caracas 0; Estudiantes 3 Mineros Guayana 0.
Feb 3: Estudiantes 0 Galicia 0; Mineros Guayana 1 Nacional 6; Caracas 2 Ital-Chacao 1; Trujillanos 1 Monagas 0; Dep Tachira 2 Portuguesa 2.

VENEZUELA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Ital-Chacao	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Estudiantes	3	1	2	0	4	1	5
Galicia	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Monagas	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Caracas	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Trujillanos	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
Dep Tachira	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Portuguesa	3	0	1	2	7	11	1
Mineros Guayana	3	0	1	2	2	10	1

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

SUMMER LEAGUE

Jan 5: Veracruz 3 Atlante 2; Tigres 1 Atletico Morelia 1; Cruz Azul 1 Atletico Celaya 0; Atlas 3 Santos 3.
Jan 6: Pumas UNAM 1 Monterrey 0; Pachuca 3 America 2; La Piedad 1 Guadalajara 1; Necaxa 3 Puebla 0; Leon 0 Toluca 2.
Jan 12: Toluca 3 Necaxa 1; Tecos UAG 0 La Piedad 2; Monterrey 4 Leon 1.
Jan 13: Atletico Morelia 2 Veracruz 2; Guadalajara 3 Cruz Azul 0; Atlante 2 Atlas 3; Puebla 1 Pachuca 2; Atletico Celaya 3 Pumas UNAM 4; America 3 Tigres 1.
Jan 19: Toluca 5 Puebla 1; Veracruz 0 America 2; Cruz Azul 3 Tecos UAG 1; Tigres 1 Pachuca 1; Atlas 2 Atletico Morelia 0.
Jan 20: Pumas UNAM 2 Guadalajara 2; La Piedad 1 Santos 0; Necaxa 3 Monterrey 1; Leon 1 Atletico Celaya 1.
Jan 26: Tecos UAG 0 Pumas UNAM 3; Monterrey 1 Toluca 1.
Jan 27: Guadalajara 2 Leon 2; Pachuca 3 Veracruz 2; Atletico Celaya 2 Necaxa 2; Puebla 1 Tigres 1; Santos 2 Cruz Azul 2; America 0 Atlas 1; Atlante 0 La Piedad 1.
Jan 31: La Piedad 1 Atletico Morelia 2; Leon 0 America 1.
Feb 2: Toluca 0 Atletico Celaya 1; Veracruz 0 Tigres 2; Monterrey 1 Puebla 1; Cruz Azul 3 Atlante 1; Atlas 3 Pachuca 1.
Feb 3: Pumas UNAM 3 Santos 4; Necaxa 0 Guadalajara 1; Leon 0 Tecos UAG 0.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlas	5	4	1	0	12	6	13
Cruz Azul	5	3	1	1	9	7	10
Guadalajara	5	2	3	0	9	5	9
Monterrey	5	1	2	2	7	7	5
At Celaya	5	1	2	2	7	8	5

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	5	3	1	1	11	4	10
La Piedad	5	3	1	1	6	3	10
Santos	4	1	2	1	9	9	5
At Morelia	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Veracruz*	5	1	1	3	7	11	4

**Formerly Irapuato*

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	5	3	0	2	8	5	9
Necaxa	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
Leon	6	0	3	3	4	10	3
Tecos UAG	4	0	1	3	1	8	1
Atlante	4	0	0	4	5	10	0

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pumas UNAM	5	3	1	1	13	9	10
Pachuca	5	3	1	1	10	9	10
Tigres	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
Puebla	5	0	2	3	4	12	2

LEADING GOALSCORERS

7 Sebastian Abreu (Cruz Azul)
5 Martin Rodriguez (Veracruz)
4 Jose Luis Calderon (Atlas)
4 Jose Cardozo (Toluca)
4 Victor Muller (Pumas UNAM)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Preliminary rnd, 1st legs

Feb 2: Hintsa (Eri) 1 APR FC (Rwa) 0; Mogoditshane Life Fighters (Bot) 0 Lesotho Defence Force (Les) 1; Oserian Fastac (Ken) 1 EEPCO (Eth) 0; Red Star (Sey) 0 Simba SC (Tan) 1; Wallidan (Gam) 3 Horoya (Gui) 0
Feb 3: Costa do Sol (Moz) 4 Prince Louis (Brd) 0; Olympic Real Bangui (CAR) 1 Akonangui (EqG) 0; Tourbillon (Chd) 3 Dyto de Lome (Tog) 2.

Still to play: Stade Olympic de l'Emyrne (Mad) v Olympique de Moka (Mrs).

CUP-WINNERS CUP

Preliminary rnd, 1st legs

Feb 2: Akokana (Ngr) 0 Gazelle (Chd) 0; Polisi Zanzibar (Tan) 0 Guna Trading (Eth) 0.
Feb 3: Les Citadins (Rwa) 4 Stade Centrafricain (CAR) 0; US Beau Bassin-Rose Hill (Mrs) 3 Extension Gunners (Bot) 2.

Still to play: Atletico Malabo (EqG) v Sara de Eafilo (Tog).

ASIA

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

2nd rnd, 1st legs

WEST ASIA ZONE
Dec 21: Al Kuwait (Kuw) 3 Al Qods (Pal) 2.

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

WEST ASIA ZONE
Dec 29: Al Zawra (Irq) 1 Al Wahda (UAE) 2
Agg 3-3. Al Wahda 4-3 on pens.
Jan 4: Al Qods 1 Al Kuwait 6 *Al Kuwait 9-3 on agg.*

EAST ASIA ZONE
Feb 5: BEC Tero Sasana (Tha) 1 Kashima Antlers (Jap) 0 *Kashima Antlers 3-1 on agg.*

Saunders (Sri) v Suwon Bluewings (SKo) – Saunders withdrew after 1st leg; Suwon Bluewings walkover

Quarter-finals

WEST ASIA ZONE
In Abu Dhabi
Feb 6: Al Kuwait 1 Nasaf Qarshi (Uzb) 1; Al Wahda 3 Esteghlal (Irn) 5.
Feb 8: Al Wahda 2 Al Kuwait 2; Esteghlal 1 Nasaf Qarshi 1.

WEST ASIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esteghlal	2	1	1	0	6	4	4
Al Kuwait	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Nasaf Qarshi	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Al Wahda	2	0	1	1	5	7	1

CUP-WINNERS CUP

2nd rnd, 1st legs

WEST ASIA ZONE
Dec 21: Al Hilal (Sau) 5 Al Aqsa (Pal) 0; Al Shabab (Sau) 0 Al Saad (Qat) 0; Al Wahdat (Jor) 2 Al Ain (UAE) 1.

EAST ASIA ZONE
Dec 22: Chonbuk Hyundai (SKo) 8 Victory (Mdv) 0.

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

WEST ASIA ZONE
Jan 4: Al Aqsa 1 Al Hilal 2 *Al Hilal 7-1 on agg;*
Al Saad 3 Al Shabab 2 *Al Saad 3-2 on agg;*
Al Ain 2 Al Wahdat 0 *Al Ain 3-2 on agg.*

EAST ASIA ZONE
Dec 29: Victory 0 Chonbuk Hyundai 4
Chonbuk 12-0 on agg.

CHINA

CHINA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dalian Shide	26	16	5	5	58	31	53
Shanghai S'hua	26	15	3	8	39	28	48
Liaoning Fushun	26	15	3	8	39	32	48
Sichuan Q'xing	26	14	5	7	36	29	47
Shenzhen Pingan	26	13	7	6	34	18	46
Shandong L'ng	26	13	6	7	42	32	45
Tianjin Taida	26	10	6	10	38	31	36
Beijing Guo'an	26	9	6	11	30	33	33
Shaanxi Guoli	26	8	8	10	31	41	32
Yunnan Hongta	26	8	7	11	34	32	31
Chongqing Lifan	26	7	10	9	24	27	31
Bayi Zhenbang	26	5	10	11	24	36	25
Qingdao Hainiu	26	5	7	14	22	35	22
Shenyang Haishi	26	2	1	23	23	69	7

RECENT TRANSFERS

	POS	FROM	TO
ABEL XAVIER	D	Everton	Liverpool
Martin ALBRECHTSEN	D	AB	FC Copenhagen
ALEX, Alessandro de Souza	F	Parma	Palmeiras (loan)
Jimmy ALGERINO	D	Venezia	Sochaux
Guido ALVARENGA	M	Cerro Porteno	Leon
Daniel AMOKACHI	F	Fenerbahce	Colorado Rapids
Juan ARANGO	M	Monterrey	Pachuca
Hugo ARISTIZABAL	F	Deportivo Cali	Vitoria
ARMANDO	D	Sporting Braga	Benfica
Mattias ASPER	G	Real Sociedad	Besiktas (loan)
ATHIRSON	D	Juventus	Flamengo (loan)
Ibrahim BA	M	Marseille	Milan (end of loan)
Jacek BAK	D	Lyon	Lens
Ibrahim BANGOURA	F	Istres	Troyes
Warren BARTON	D	Newcastle	Derby
Christian BASSEDAS	M	Newcastle	Tenerife
Runar BERG	M	Venezia	Bodo/Glimt
Arley BETANCOURT	M	Lanus	Alianza Lima
Joachim BJORKLUND	D	Venezia	Sunderland
Nicolas BONNAL	F	Monaco	Troyes
Hector BRACAMONTE	F	Badajoz	Boca Juniors (end of loan)
Philippe BRUNEL	F	Lens	Lille (loan)
Nino BULE	F	Gamba Osaka	Hajduk Split
Dario CABROL	M	Tucuman	Alianza Lima
Zoumana CAMARA	D	Marseille	Lens
Benito CARBONE	F	Bradford	Middlesbrough (loan)
Lee CARSLEY	M	Coventry	Everton
Stephane CASSARD	G	Montpellier	Troyes
Yohan CAVALLI	M	Nantes	Lorient
Jurgen CAVENS	F	Marseille	Standard Liege
Diego CEPEDA	M	Boca Juniors	Lugano
William Vasquez CHACON	F	Newell's Old Boys	Tulua
Laurent CHARVET	D/M	Manchester City	Marseille
CHRISTIAN	F	Bordeaux	Palmeiras (loan)
Jesper CHRISTIANSEN	G	Rangers	Vejle (loan)
Roberto COLAUTTI	F	Boca Juniors	Lugano
Denni CONTEH	F	Herfolge	Sparta Rotterdam
Alexandr COVALENCO	D	Tiligul Tiraspol	Dinamo Moscow
Dario DAINELLI	D	Brescia	Verona (loan)
Wilfried DALMAT	M	Nantes	Marseille (loan)
Georgi DEMETRADZE	F	Real Sociedad	Lokomotiv Moscow (loan)
DIMAS	D	Sporting Lisbon	Marseille (loan)
Pape Malick DIOP	D	Neuchatel Xamax	Lorient
Didier DROGBA	F	Le Mans	Guingamp
EDILSON	F	Flamengo	Cruzeiro
Serghei EPUREANU	M	Zimbru Chisinau	Sokol Saratov
Juan ESNAIDER	F	FC Porto	River Plate
Fabrice FIORESE	F	Guingamp	Paris Saint-Germain (loan)
Daniel FONSECA	F	Juventus	River Plate
Diego FORLAN	F	Independiente (Arg)	Manchester United
Gerald FORSCHELET	M	Cannes	Bolton
Luis GARCIA	F	America (Col)	Bella Vista
Benjamin GAVANON	M	Marseille	Aris Salonika (loan)
Regis GENAUX	D	Udinese	Standard Liege
David GINOLA	M	Aston Villa	Everton
Jersson GONZALEZ	D	America (Col)	Galatasaray (loan)
Mauricio HANUCH	M	Estudiantes de la Plata	Santa Clara
Pavel HORVATH	M	Galatasaray	Teplice
Edgaras JANKAUSKAS	F	Real Sociedad	Benfica (loan)
Robert JARNI	M	Las Palmas	Panathinaikos
Nordin JBARI	F	Troyes	Aris Salonika (loan)
JEAN	D	Santos	FC Tokyo
Jermaine JENAS	M	Nottingham Forest	Newcastle
Niclas JENSEN	D	FC Copenhagen	Manchester City
Daniel JIMENEZ	F	Instituto Cordoba	Penarol
Maher KANZARI	M	Al Ittihad (Qat)	Al Nasr (UAE)

	POS	FROM	TO
Sebastian KEHL	M	Freiburg	Borussia Dortmund
KIATISUK Senamuang	F	S'pore Armed Forces	Gia Lai
Victor KOZIY	F	FC Agro	Metalurh Donetsk
Radoslav LATAL	M	Sigma Olomouc	Banik Ostrava
Jacob LAURSEN	D	FC Copenhagen	Leicester
Robert LEE	M	Newcastle	Derby
Stephane LEONI	D	Dundee Utd	Sedan
Jerome LEROY	M	Marseille	Paris Saint-Germain (loan)
Tobias LINDEROTH	M	Stabaek	Everton
Massimo LOMBARDO	M	Lausanne	Servette
Badile LUBAMBA	D	Lugano	Troyes
Trond Fredrik LUDVIGSEN	F	Bodo/Glimt	Hertha Berlin
Toifilou MAOULIDA	F	Montpellier	Rennes
MARINHO	D	Gremio	Besiktas
Sasa MARKOVIC	F	Zeleznik	MTK
Lilian MARTIN	D	Marseille	Hibernian
Richard MARTINI	D	Marseille	Lorient (loan)
Camel MERIEM	M	Sochaux	Bordeaux
Savo MILOSEVIC	F	Parma	Zaragoza (loan)
Daniel MONTENEGRO	M	Marseille	Huracan (loan)
Erik MYKLAND	M	1860 Munich	FC Copenhagen
Bruno N'GOTTY	D	Marseille	Bolton
Radu NICULESCU	F	National Bucharest	Galatasaray (loan)
Benjamin NIVET	M	Chateauroux	Troyes
Jussi NUORELA	D	MyPa	Malmo
Perica OGNJENOVIC	F	Real Madrid	Kaiserslautern
Paul OKON	M	Middlesbrough	Watford
Fabian O'NEILL	M	Juventus	Perugia
Yksel OSMANOVSKI	F	Torino	Bordeaux (loan)
Antonio PACHECO	F	Internazionale	Espanyol
Andrej PANADIC	D	Hamburg	Sturm Graz
Petr PAPOUSEK	M	Sparta Prague	Banik Ostrava
PAULO SOUSA	M	Panathinaikos	Espanyol
Olaf PERSSON	D	Malmo	FC Tirol
Dwight PEZZAROSSI	F	Palestino	Cobreloa
Daniel POPOVIC	F	Vukovar	Bastia (loan)
Rubiel QUINTANA	M/F	Belgrano Cordoba	Tulua
Alessandro RINALDI	D	Atalanta	Chievo
Bernardo ROMEO	F	San Lorenzo	Hamburg
Timo ROST	M	Austria Wien	Energie Cottbus
Luis RUEDA	F	Racing Club (Arg)	Universidad de Chile
Carlos RUIZ	F	CSD Municipal	Los Angeles Galaxy
Lamine SAKHO	F	Lens	Marseille
Mario SANTANA	M	San Lorenzo	Venezia
Denis SERBAN	F	Valencia	Rapid Bucharest (loan)
Georgi SHENGELIA	F	Torpedo Kutaisi	Apollon Limassol
Sergei SKACHENKO	F	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	Metz (end of loan)
Vlado SMIT	D	Zeleznik	Bologna
Bogdan STELEA	G	Salamanca	Rapid Bucharest (loan)
Naohiro TAKAHARA	F	Boca Juniors	Jubilo Iwata (end of loan)
Kimmo TAURIAINEN	M	Atlantis	Start
Omari TETRADZE	D	PAOK Salonika	Alaniya Vladikavkaz
TIAGO	M	Sporting Braga	Benfica
Stig TOFTING	M	Hamburg	Bolton
Stefano TORRISI	D	Parma	Marseille (loan)
Gabriel URDANETA	M	Lucerne	Mannheim
VAMPETA	M	Flamengo	Corinthians
VANDER	F	Rennes	Cruzeiro (loan)
Greg VANNEY	D	Los Angeles Galaxy	Bastia (loan)
Cesareo VICTORINO	M	Pachuca	Cruz Azul
Jurica VRANJES	M	Bayer Leverkusen	Hajduk Split (loan)
Jarkko WISS	M	Stockport	Hibernian
Richard WITSCHGE	M	Alaves	Ajax (end of loan)
Ned ZELIC	D	1860 Munich	Kyoto Purple Sanga
Marc ZIEGLER	G	FC Tirol	Austria Wien
Marco ZWYSSIG	D	FC Tirol	Basle

Cameroon hold their nerve

Mark Gleeson in Bamako sees the defending champions retain their title

MARCH 26 STADIUM, BAMAKO
Cameroon 0
Senegal 0
Aet. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Al-Ghandour (Egy)
Cameroon 3-2 on pens
Penalty shoot-out sequence (Cameroon first): Wome (saved), Coly; Suffo, Fadiga; Etame-Mayer, A Faye (saved); Njitap, Diouf (missed); Song (saved), A Cisse (saved).
Cameroon: Alioum - Song, Kalla, Tchato - Njitap, Etame-Mayer, Foe, Olembe, Wome - N'Diefi (Suffo 105), Eto'o.
Senegal: Sylva - Coly, Diatta, A Cisse, Daf - Makhtar N'Diaye (Moussa N'Diaye 46), Diao, P B Diop (A Faye 91), Fadiga - Diouf, H Camara (S Camara 106).

CAMEROON did not concede a goal in any of their six matches at the African Nations Cup finals in Mali and deservedly held on to their title in the Final against Senegal in Bamako.

But again it took a dramatic penalty shoot-out to hand the Indomitable Lions the title and the distinction of being the first side in 37 years to retain the trophy.

They should have wrapped up the game inside 90 minutes, while only a dramatic save by Senegal goalkeeper Tony Sylva from Cameroon attacker Samuel Eto'o with the final kick of the game kept them from winning the game in extra time.

But Cameroon eventually made sure of victory with a 3-2 win in the post match shoot-out after goalkeeper Boukar Alioum saved Senegal's final kick from their captain, Aliou Cisse.

One kick earlier, Rigobert Song had the chance to seal it for Cameroon and give them a 4-2 win in the shoot-out, as he had done two years earlier when Cameroon beat Nigeria 4-3 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the 2000 Final in Lagos.

But Song had his kick saved by Sylva, who then watched with despair as Cisse failed with his effort and handed Cameroon the title – the fourth in their history to equal Ghana and Egypt's record-breaking achievement.

Squandered opportunities, overall, belonged to Cameroon, for whom Pius N'Diefi missed two excellent chances and also saw a second-half effort come back off an upright.

N'Diefi had been handed the opportunity to become the new hero of Cameroon when he replaced the injured Patrick Mboma in the starting line-up. Twice he was unmarked at the back post with the goal at his mercy. But he shot wide in the first half and then headed past the goal in the first period of extra time.

But N'Diefi was incredibly unlucky

Champions again...Cameroon celebrate their shoot-out victory

Final showdown...Cameroon's Olembe tangles with Fadiga of Senegal

not to score in the 71st minute after strike partner Eto'o put him through and he beat Sylva from a tight angle only for the ball to hit the far post.

Senegal also shaved the woodwork – as early as the fourth minute – when El Hadji Diouf outmuscled Song to the ball, then flicked neatly back for Henri Camara, whose blast nicked the crossbar as it sailed over.

Diouf, one of the candidates for the African Footballer of the Year award, played mostly on his own up front as Senegal battled to plug holes down the flanks, which Cameroon regularly exploited.

Diouf's sharp touches did cause problems for the Cameroon defence, but his team-mate Khalilou Fadiga had the best chance on the counter-attack in the 80th minute. But he hesitated too long and was stripped of the ball by Salomon Olembe.

The defending champions dominated down the right-hand side in the first half, with Eto'o and Lauren Etame-Mayer regularly easing past Senegal's left-back Omar Daf. Eto'o had a headed goal disallowed after Sylva was pushed by N'Diefi attempting to cut out a Cameroon corner.

Sylva was forced into a brave save just before the interval, rushing out to stop the ball at the feet of Eto'o, who had profited from another quick pass from the right.

The supply route dried up in the second half after Moussa N'Diaye appeared as a substitute to strengthen Senegal's left-hand side of defence.

But Cameroon still managed to make more good chances, with N'Diefi looking to have had a legitimate penalty claim turned down after a clumsy tug by Senegal captain Cisse 10 minutes into the second half.

Just seconds before the final whistle at the end of extra time, Sylva came to Senegal's rescue with a quick dash off his line to thwart Eto'o as Cameroon came close in what proved to be the last action of the game.

COMMENT

The lessons from Mali

IT WAS ALWAYS going to be a gamble taking a 16-team tournament to one of the world's most impoverished nations. It was therefore no surprise that Mali found itself stretched to the limits in hosting the 23rd African Nations Cup finals.

But it is not the lack of facilities and harsh conditions that the tournament will be remembered for, but rather the bizarre incidents ahead of the semi-final between the hosts and defending champions Cameroon, which have tarnished any chance of Mali coming out of the event with a positive image.

The Confederation of African Football's decision to ban Cameroon goalkeeping coach Thomas Nkono for one year – for alleged belligerence towards the police and not wearing his accreditation badge – is a travesty of justice. This dark cloud condemns the latest Nations Cup to the 'best forgotten' chapter of African soccer history.

Mali's authorities deliberately set out to intimidate, obstruct and interfere with Cameroon's preparations ahead of the semi-final with their own national team. Any retaliation that Nkono and his compatriots exercised seems well justified.

Nkono might not have had the right badge around his neck but he was in a team tracksuit when he stepped out to take a walk on the field some 90 minutes before the game, common courtesy in any country for any team. But Mali's police were spoiling for a fight and got it. Nkono has now been made out to be the aggressor by CAF, seeking to score political points with their hosts rather than confront the truth.

That he was handcuffed was excessive in the extreme and completely soured the atmosphere of the tournament.

The event also struggled on the pitch, too, with poor finishing, a drought of goals at the beginning and some obviously weak teams in the field. But for once the refereeing can be commended in what hopefully becomes a major boost for the African game. There were just two matches where gripes against the match officials seemed justified.

The Nations Cup also brought home the realisation that teams can no longer afford to pick players based with European clubs just because they have made the jump from domestic soccer to the leagues of Europe.

There were far too many players at the tournament in Mali who are not regulars with their European clubs. Their lack of form and fitness was all too evident.

It was also no surprise, therefore, that Cameroon and Senegal, two sides with the vast majority of their squad enjoying a first-team place at club level, reached the Final.

Both showed that they will be tough competitors at the World Cup finals, even if they have tough first-round opposition lying in wait.

But the three other African teams heading to the World Cup need a rather severe shake-up if they are to effect any success in Japan and South Korea.

Nigeria are likely to dump coach Shaibu Amodu in another knee-jerk reaction to perceived failure, although third place is nothing to be scoffed at. South Africa and Tunisia, meanwhile, have a crisis of confidence to overcome after below-average performances in Mali.

Mark Gleeson

FIRST-ROUND GROUPS

Few goals as Tunisia make early exit

DEFENDING champions Cameroon were the only side to come through the first round with a 100 per cent record, but their progress was overshadowed by an uncharacteristic lack of goals.

The Nations Cup almost fell asleep before it got started as match after match provided a litany of missed opportunities. These threatened to turn the tournament into a competition decided by the drawing of lots rather than on the football field.

In Group B, based in the provincial town of Segou, the first three games ended goalless, driving the town's spectators away in the process.

The group's opening match, between Burkina Faso and South Africa, was watched by a near capacity crowd of 13,000; the next games raised barely 2,000 interested spectators.

In all, the 24 matches in the first round featured 10 draws, eight of them goalless. Questions were asked as to whether this was an indication of a growing maturity in African football, with defence now the primary concern.

But if the truth be told, it boiled down really to some woeful finishing in difficult conditions, on bumpy surfaces and under a blazing sun.

Tunisia were the high-profile casualties of the first round. They departed without scoring a goal, though they were without their two key strikers because of injuries.

French coach Henri Michel, who took over in November, slated the lack of ability at his disposal, commenting: "You can't expect to win if you don't have the right talent." Whether he is still in charge for the World Cup finals in June remains to be seen.

The other World Cup finalists, who attracted widespread international media attention, were also mediocre in the first round, even Cameroon in their new-style sleeveless Australian Rules-type football shirts.

There was a touch of good fortune about Cameroon's first two wins in Group C, against the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ivory Coast, and a fair amount of controversy in their last match, when they beat Togo 3-0 in Sikasso.

Nigeria also failed to impress, using Nwankwo Kanu only as a second-half substitute for their first Group A match, against Algeria, but still winning by the game's only goal. Then they played a goalless draw with Mali before eliminating Liberia and going through themselves with a 1-0 win in the northern town of Mopti.

South Africa worked themselves into a panic after two goalless draws at the start of Group B but came back strongly to beat Morocco to finish top of the standings. Their promising and youthful side looked far from impressive.

In trouble...South Africa's Tinkler

Senegal also rode their luck, winning their first two Group D games 1-0 with fortunate late goals in both. They were also outplayed by their respective opponents, Egypt and Zambia.

For the rest, it was the hosts, Mali, and the end of the George Weah era that grabbed the spotlight.

Mali followed Nigeria through from

QUARTER-FINALS

Mali march on

MALI, ranked a lowly 108 in the world, were the toast of the quarter-finals. They were transformed from expected also-rans to serious contenders by knocking World Cup finalists South Africa out of the competition.

Mali won 2-0 against Bafana Bafana, having been inspired by a brilliant solo effort from veteran Bassala Toure, the only survivor from Mali's last Nations Cup outing eight years earlier, when they were also surprise semi-finalists.

A match of high intensity, with a hugely expectant country watching, started off slowly but was turned on its head by a moment of magic. Toure twisted and turned his way past three South African defenders before firing home from the edge of the penalty area for the opening goal in the 60th minute.

South Africa had just two shots on goal in a dour performance, and Mali got a deserved second goal on the stroke of full time as unmarked substitute Dramane Coulibaly tapped a square pass into the net at the back post.

Coulibaly took off his shirt and he and his colleagues danced around it as the rest of the country erupted into a joyous riot of colour and celebration.

It was the right result for the event, too, keeping alive the local interest and, in fact, raising the passion for the tournament.

The drama at Kayes had barely died down before Ghana's 'teen brigade' were up against the superstars of Nigeria, holding out until some 12 minutes from the end, when the Super Eagles finally got the expected breakthrough.

Garba Lawal drove speculatively from outside the area, and keeper Sammy Adjei, one of the stars of the match, had little chance as the ball flew into the net.

Happy hosts...Mali celebrate victory over South Africa

Some 24 hours later, the final two semi-finalists were decided. Cameroon overcame a sterile Egypt in Sikasso, and then Senegal outpaced the Democratic Republic of Congo in the first real bruising match of the tournament.

The Indomitable Lions kept up their strong defensive record in Sikasso, keeping a clean sheet against the Egyptians in their 1-0 quarter-final win.

It was not a difficult task, however, as Egypt made no effort to try and win the game, electing instead to seek a draw and then take their chances in the lottery of the penalty shoot-out at the end of 120 minutes.

But Patrick Mboma had other ideas, sealing the win in the second half with a flicked header from a

Group A but only after gaining a last-gasp draw against Liberia in their opening match thanks to Seydou Keita's long-range equaliser three minutes from time.

Even then, Mali had to win their last game, against Algeria, to progress. But they suddenly came alive, scoring twice in the opening 30 minutes.

The 2-0 win over Algeria rescued the tournament, too, since there had been poor crowds at matches not featuring Mali or neighbours Senegal, who had thousands of supporters cross the border to cheer their team on.

Liberia's defeat by Nigeria ended the long-standing international career of Weah. The Liberian made an outstanding individual contribution to the African game, not only on the pitch but off it.

It was far from fitting that he should have bowed out in the obscurity of Mopti, a town on the River Niger that few will ever hear of again.

Mark Gleeson

corner, his third goal of the tournament.

Finally, it was left to Senegal to further confirm their up-and-coming status on the African soccer scene. They did so in a robust tussle against the Congolese in Bamako.

DR Congo again started a match without captain Shabani Nonda, who flew back to France again after picking up a fever, and they were outclassed by the strong and more fluid Senegalese.

Salif Diao's strong header just past the half-hour set the Lions on course, rising majestically to meet Khalilou Fadiga's in-swinging free-kick. El Hadji Diouf finished the game off with a tap-in two minutes from time after an unselfish pass from Souleymane Camara.

A red card on the final whistle for Congo's Alexis Tekumu was the first of the tournament.

Mark Gleeson

SEMI-FINALS

Red cards mar Senegal victory

SENEGAL'S dream form continued with a sensational win over Nigeria. This booked a first ever place in the Nations Cup Final, against a Cameroon side who had romped home against hosts Mali in the other semi-final.

But the results were overshadowed by three red cards in the first match and then a series of bizarre incidents ahead of the home team's defeat.

Up until the semi-final stage there had been just one dismissal in the tournament, above-average refereeing and an atmosphere of fraternity.

It seemed too good to be true, and the semi-finals saw the Nations Cup return to controversial ways – a bizarre police attack on the Cameroonians and then an even more bizarre decision by CAF to lay the blame squarely on the victims.

Thomas Nkono, the former international and now Cameroon's goalkeeper coach, was handcuffed and beaten up before the Mali game in an unprovoked attack watched by the entire stadium. Yet he received a one-year ban for not wearing his accreditation badge and being allegedly belligerent with the authorities. It was a most extraordinary miscarriage of justice.

Self-serving officials sought to deflect the shame that the police forces had inflicted on the host country, destroying any positive image Mali had achieved in the preceding weeks.

Nigeria's image was in tatters, too, after they bowed out against 10-man Senegal, who had defender Pape Sarr sent off in the first half for an attack with his elbow on Garba Lawal.

Nigeria's Achilles heel, goalkeeping, came back to haunt them. Ike Shorunmu misjudged a corner and was all at sea as Pape Bouba Diop put Senegal ahead on 54 minutes with a strong header.

Senegal, though, were dealt potential heartbreak just two minutes from time, when Julius Aghahowa outpaced and outfought defender Lamine Diatta to equalise and send the game into extra time.

It seemed then that Nigeria's Super Eagles would run away with the win, but the Lions showed their fighting spirit, gamely battling on. A run down the right wing and a quick cross caught out the Nigerian defence again and 17 minutes into extra time Senegal were ahead once more, the goal scored by Salif Diao.

Nigeria could still have equalised, but substitute Wilson Oruma squandered a dramatic late penalty as tempers started to boil over. The Nigerians lost Aghahowa and defender Ifeanyi Udeze, both through second yellow cards.

Cameroon, incensed by the treatment received before the game by Malian officials, took revenge in the best way possible, and found a new hero in striker Pius N'Diefi.

N'Diefi got a rare start in place of injured Patrick Mboma and tore apart the Malian defence, laying on two goals for Salomon Olembe in the last five minutes of the first half.

After the interval, Cameroon twice hit the woodwork and then finished off Mali with a third goal from Marc-Vivien Foe, whose strength allowed him to round Mali's keeper and score into an empty net.

The hosts' cynical attempts at unsettling Cameroon had backfired. At least some justice had been achieved.

Mark Gleeson

Semi struggle...Senegal's Pape Sarr challenges Garba Lawal of Nigeria

African Nations Cup squads

ALGERIA

GOALKEEPERS
22 Merouane Abdouni (USM Harrach)
1 Lounes Gaouaoui (JS Kabylie)
12 Mohamed Samadi (USM Blida)

DEFENDERS
17 Slimane Raho (JS Kabylie)
13 Brahim Zafour (JS Kabylie)
21 Mohamed Bradja (Troyes, Fra)
19 Smail Diss (USM Blida)
3 Moulay Haddou (Mouloudia Oran)
2 Yacine Slatni (Mouloudia Alger)
5 Mounir Zeghdoud (USM Alger)

MIDFIELDERS
8 Billal Dziri (USM Alger)
20 Mahieddine Meftah (USM Alger)
7 Omar Belbey (Montpellier, Fra)
16 Lounes Bendahmane (JS Kabylie)
4 Nasreddine Kraouche (Gent, Blg)
6 Yazid Mansouri (Le Havre, Fra)

FORWARDS
15 Nassim Akrour (Istres, Fra)
14 Nassim Bounekdja (Chabab Belouizdad)
9 Farid Ghazi (Bani Yas, UAE)
11 Kamel Kharkhache (USM Blida)
18 Rafik Saifi (Troyes, Fra)
10 Abdelhafid Tasfaout (Guingamp, Fra)

Coach: Rabah Madjer

BURKINA FASO

GOALKEEPERS
22 Mohamed Kabore (ASFA Yennega)
16 Kadre Kontougonde (USFA)
1 Yousoufou Sawadogo (Etoile Filante)

DEFENDERS
21 Firmin Sanou (Valence, Fra)
15 Ousmane Traore (Valence, Fra)
5 Madou Dossama (Etoile Filante)
12 Soumaila Tassembedo (Etoile Filante)
3 Brahima Cisse (Djembouba, Tun)
20 Boureima Ouattara (RCB)
4 Mamadou Tall (Bursaspor, Tur)
2 Lamine Traore (Anderlecht, Blg)

MIDFIELDERS
13 Romeo Kambou (Bani Yas, UAE)
10 Ali Ouedraogo (Etoile Filante)
6 Saifou Panandetiguiri (Bordeaux, Fra)
18 Amadou Toure (ASFA)
17 Narcisse Yameogo (Jeanne d'Arc, Sen)
8 Issa Zongo (Satellite, IvC)

FORWARDS
9 Oumar Barro (Brondby, Den)
14 Tanguy Barro (RCB)
19 Moumouni Dagano (Genk, Blg)
7 Alassane Ouedraogo (Koln, Ger)
11 Wilfried Sanou (FC Tirol, Aut)

Coach: Jacques-Michel Yameogo

CAMEROON

GOALKEEPERS
1 Boukar Alioum (Samsunspor, Tur)
22 Carlos Idriss Kameni (Le Havre, Fra)
16 Jacques Songo'o (Metz, Fra)

DEFENDERS
14 Joel Epalle (Panahaiki, Gre)
5 Raymond Kalla (Extremadura, Spa)
13 Lucien Mettomo (Manchester City, Eng)
7 Joseph Ndo (Al Kahalees, UAE)
8 Geremi Njitap (Real Madrid, Spa)
4 Rigobert Song (Koln, Ger)
2 Bill Tchato (Montpellier, Fra)
3 Pierre Wome (Bologna, Ita)

MIDFIELDERS
15 Nicolas Alnoudji (Rizespor, Tur)
6 Jean Dika Dika (Uniao de Lamas, Por)
19 Eric Djemba (Nantes, Fra)
17 Marc-Vivien Foe (Lyon, Fra)
12 Lauren Etame-Mayer (Arsenal, Eng)
21 Daniel Ngom Kome (Numancia, Spa)
20 Salomon Olembe (Marseille, Fra)

FORWARDS
9 Samuel Eto'o (Mallorca, Spa)
10 Patrick Mboma (Parma, Ita)
11 Pius N'Diefi (Sedan, Fra)
18 Patrick Suffo (Sheffield United, Eng)

Coach: Winfried Schafer (Ger)

DR CONGO

GOALKEEPERS
22 Michel Babale (Free State Stars, SAf)
1 Pascal Kalemba (TP Mazembe)
12 Paulin Tokala (Inter Luanda, Ang)

DEFENDERS
13 Dikulu Bageta (TP Mazembe)
5 Essele Bakasu (Paderborn, Ger)
15 Kasongo Bukasa (Vita Club)
2 Muyaya Kayembe (DC Motema Pembe)
3 Mundasa Kisombe (no club)
20 Felix Muamba (TP Mazembe)
4 Yves Yuvuladio (Erzurumspor, Tur)

MIDFIELDERS
16 Patrick Apataki (Bursaspor, Tur)
11 Papy Okitankoyi Kimoto (Lokeren, Blg)
17 Singa Manzangala (Lokeren, Blg)
19 Marcel Mbayo (Genclerbirligi, Tur)
8 Kapela Mbiyavanga (Petro Atletico, Ang)

FORWARDS
7 Pathy Esengo (Inter Luanda, Ang)
9 Lomana Tresor Lua Lua (Newcastle, Eng)
14 Jean-Paul Boeka-Lisasa (Lokeren, Blg)
6 Jason Mayele (Chievo, Ita)
10 Kanku Mulekelanyi (TP Mazembe)
21 Alexis Tekumu (Servette, Swi)
18 Shabani Nonda (Monaco, Fra)

Coach: Louis Watunda

EGYPT

GOALKEEPERS
16 Essam Al-Hadary (Al Ahly)
22 Mohamed Abou El Monsef (Zamalek)
1 Nader El Sayed (Goldi)

DEFENDERS
3 Mohamed Emara (Hansa Rostock, Ger)
8 Yasser Radwan (Hansa Rostock, Ger)
13 Wael Gomaa (Al Ahly)
15 Ibrahim Said (Al Ahly)
2 Amr Fahim (Ismaili)
6 Hany Said (Bari, Ita)
5 Abdelzaher El Saka (Genclerbirligi, Tur)
21 Tarek El Sayed (Zamalek)

MIDFIELDERS
14 Hazem Emam (Zamalek)
20 Mohamed Abou Elela (Zamalek)
4 Hany Ramzy (Kaiserslautern, Ger)
11 Tarek Said (Anderlecht, Blg)
12 Mohamed Barakat (Ismaili)
17 Ahmed Hassan (Genclerbirligi, Tur)

FORWARDS
10 Gamal Hamza (Zamalek)
9 Hossam Hassan (Zamalek)
7 Khaled Bebo (Al Ahly)
18 Ahmed Hossam (Ajax, Hol)
19 Ahmed Salah Hosni (Gent, Blg)

Coach: Mahmoud Al-Gohary

GHANA

GOALKEEPERS
12 Sammy Adjei (Hearts of Oak)
1 James Nanor (Hearts of Oak)
22 Abubakari Kankani (Ghapoha)

DEFENDERS
19 Kofi Amponsah (PAOK Salonika, Gre)
14 George Blay (Standard Liege, Blg)
2 Mohamed Hamza (Real Tamale Utd)
4 Samuel Osei Kuffour (Bayern Munich, Ger)
5 John Mensah (Genoa, Ita)
6 Amankwah Mireku (Hearts of Oak)
15 Princeton Owusu-Ansah (Obuasi Goldfields)
21 John Pantsil (Berekum Arsenal)

MIDFIELDERS
7 Matthew Amoah (Vitesse Arnhem, Hol)
9 Prince Amoako (Saturn, Rus)
16 Emmanuel Duah (Uniao Leiria, Por)
8 Michael Essien (Bastia, Fra)
20 Razak Ibrahim (Empoli, Ita)
3 Emmanuel Osei Kuffour (Hearts of Oak)

FORWARDS
18 Ishmael Addo (Hearts of Oak)
13 Isaac Boakye (Obuasi Goldfields)
10 Derek Boateng (Panathinaikos,Gre)
17 Baffour Gyan (Slovan Liberec, Cze)
11 Alex Tachie-Mensah (Neuchatel Xamax, Swi)

Coach: Fred Osman Duodu

IVORY COAST

GOALKEEPERS
16 Boubacar Barry (Rennes, Fra)
1 Losseni Konate (ASEC Abidjan)
22 Bernard Kouassi (Stade Abidjan)

DEFENDERS
20 Siaka Tiene (ASEC Abidjan)
2 Habib Toure (ASEC Abidjan)
11 Seydou Kante (ASEC Abidjan)
5 Ghislain Akassou (Pistoiese, Ita)
3 Mamadou Coulibaly (Lokeren, Blg)
8 Ibrahima Kone (Etoile Sahel, Tun)
6 Blaise Kouassi (Guingamp, Fra)
19 Didier Zokora (Genk, Blg)

MIDFIELDERS
13 Aliou Siby Badra (Club Africain, Tun)
18 Abdoulaye Djire (ASEC Abidjan)
4 Lassina Diabate (Auxerre, Fra)
7 Tchiressoa Guel (Lorient, Fra)
17 Gilles Yapi Yapo (Beveren, Blg)

FORWARDS
10 Ibrahima Bakayoko (Marseille, Fra)
14 Aruna Dindane (Anderlecht, Blg)
15 Bonaventure Kalou (Feyenoord, Hol)
12 Abdul Kader Keita (Etoile Sahel, Tun)
9 Kandia Traore (Esperance, Tun)
21 Zephirin Zoko (Racing Paris, Fra)

Coach: Lama Bamba

LIBERIA

GOALKEEPERS
22 Pewou Bestman (Invincible Eleven)
1 Louis Crayton (Juventus Zurich, Swi)
16 Abraham Jackson (US Feurs, Fra)

DEFENDERS
20 Jimmy Dixon (Hacken, Swe)
17 George Gebro (Pakraikos, Gre)
2 Fallah Johnson (LPRC Oilers)
21 Thomas Kojo (no club)
4 Varmah Kpoto (Kria Vrisi, Gre)
5 Dionysius Sebwe (no club)

MIDFIELDERS
13 Alex Brown (no club)
3 Edward Dixon (Beaucaire, Fra)
8 Dulee Johnson (Hacken, Swe)
12 Oliver Makor (Proodeftiki, Gre)
19 John Menyongar (Minnesota Thunder, USA)
9 Zizi Roberts (Olympiakos, Gre)
6 Kelvin Sebwe (Panahaiki, Gre)

FORWARDS
15 Prince Daye (Bastia, Fra)
10 James Debbah (Al Jazira, UAE)
11 Mass Saar (no club)
7 Frank Seator (Al Tawon, Qat)
14 George Weah (Al Jazira, UAE)
18 Josephus Yenay (Eintracht Trier, Ger)

Coach: George Weah

MALI

GOALKEEPERS
22 Abdoulaye Diakite (Djoliba)
16 Karamoko Keita (Harrow Borough, Eng)
1 Mahamadou Sidibe (Athinaikos, Gre)

DEFENDERS
13 Abdoulaye Camara (Castel di Sangro, Ita)
4 Adama Coulibaly (Lens, Fra)
19 Adama Diakite (Stade Malien)
2 Daouda Diakite (Olympique Bamako)
15 Boubacar Diarra (Freiburg, Ger)
5 Fousseini Diawara (Saint-Etienne, Fra)
3 Samba Diawara (Istres, Fra)

MIDFIELDERS
21 David Coulibaly (Chateauroux, Fra)
10 Soumaila Coulibaly (Freiburg, Ger)
6 Mahamadou Diarra (Vitesse Arnhem, Hol)
14 Vincent Doukantie (Strasbourg, Fra)
20 Aboubacar Haidara (Canal, Egy)
12 Seydou Keita (Lorient, Fra)
11 Djibril Sidibe (Monaco, Fra)

FORWARDS
9 Mamadou Bagayoko (Strasbourg, Fra)
17 Dramane Coulibaly (Laval, Fra)
7 Cheick-Oumar Dabo (Genclerbirligi, Tur)
18 Mamahadou Dissa (Niort, Fra)
8 Bassala Toure (Athinaikos, Gre)

Coach: Henri Kasperczak (Fra/Pol)

MOROCCO

GOALKEEPERS
1 Abdelilah Bagui (MAS Fes)
22 Driss Benzekri (Renaissance Settat)
16 Tarik El Jarmouni (Wydad Casablanca)

DEFENDERS
17 Gharib Amzine (Troyes, Fra)
5 Abdelilah Fahmi (Lille, Fra)
21 Badr El Kaddouri (Wydad Casablanca)
6 Noureddine Naybet (Deportivo La Coruna, Spa)
4 Abdesslam Ouaddou (Fulham, Eng)
3 Akram Roumani (Genk, Blg)

MIDFIELDERS
2 Rachid Benmahmoud (Al Ahli, UAE)
12 Noureddine Boukhari (Sparta Rotterdam, Hol)
18 Youssef Chippo (Coventry, Eng)
13 Othmane El Assas (OC Khouribga)
8 Faouzi El Brazi (Twente Enschede, Hol)
15 Youssef Safri (Coventry, Eng)

FORWARDS
14 Salaheddine Bassir (Lille, Fra)
19 Tarik Chihab (Zurich, Swi)
7 Rabi Lafoui (Wydad Casablanca)
9 Abdeljilil Hadda (Club Africain, Tun)
10 Adil Ramzi (PSV Eindhoven, Hol)
20 Rachid Rokki (Club Taamon, Qat)
11 Hichem Zerouali (Aberdeen, Sco)

Coach: Humberto Coelho (Por)

NIGERIA

GOALKEEPERS
22 Murphy Akanji (Sliema Wanderers, Mlt)
12 Ndubuisi Egbo (SK Tirana, Alb)
1 Ike Shorunmu (no club)

DEFENDERS
3 Celestine Babayaro (Chelsea, Eng)
19 Eric Ejiofor (Maccabi Haifa, Isr)
16 Wilson Oruma (Servette, Swi)
21 Justice Christopher (Royal Antwerp, Blg)
5 Isaac Okoronkwo (Shakhtar Donetsk, Ukr)
14 Ifeanyi Udeze (PAOK Salonika, Gre)
6 Taribo West (Kaiserslautern, Ger)
2 Joseph Yobo (Marseille, Fra)

MIDFIELDERS
13 Tijani Babangida (Vitesse Arnhem, Hol)
7 Finidi George (Ipswich, Eng)
11 Garba Lawal (Roda JC, Hol)
18 Karibe Ojigwe (Bayer Leverkusen, Ger)
10 Austin Okocha (Paris Saint-Germain, Fra)
15 Sunday Oliseh (Borussia Dortmund, Ger)

FORWARDS
9 Victor Agali (Schalke, Ger)
17 Julius Aghahowa (Shakhtar Donetsk, Ukr)
8 Yakubu Aiyegbeni (Maccabi Haifa, Isr)
20 Victor Ikpeba (Real Betis, Spa)
4 Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal, Eng)

Coach: Shaibu Amodu

SENEGAL

GOALKEEPERS
16 Oumar Diallo (OC Khouribga, Mor)
1 Tony Sylva (Monaco, Fra)

DEFENDERS
21 Habib Beye (Strasbourg, Fra)
6 Aliou Cisse (Montpellier, Fra)
17 Ferdinand Coly (Lens, Fra)
2 Omar Daf (Sochaux, Fra)
13 Lamine Diatta (Rennes, Fra)
4 Pape Malick Diop (Neuchatel Xamax, Swi)
5 Alassane Ndour (Saint-Etienne, Fra)

MIDFIELDERS
19 Pape Bouba Diop (Grasshopper, Swi)
3 Pape Sarr (Lens, Fra)
10 Khalilou Fadiga (Auxerre, Fra)
12 Amdy Faye (Auxerre, Fra)
15 Salif Alassane Diao (Sedan, Fra)
22 Makhtar N'Diaye (Rennes, Fra)
14 Moussa N'Diaye (Sedan, Fra)
20 Sylvain N'Diaye (Lille, Fra)

FORWARDS
7 Henri Camara (Sedan, Fra)
9 Souleymane Camara (Monaco, Fra)
11 El Hadji Diouf (Lens, Fra)
18 Pape Thiaw (Lausanne, Swi)
8 Amara Traore (Gueugnon, Fra)

Coach: Bruno Metsu (Fra)

SOUTH AFRICA

GOALKEEPERS
22 Andre Arendse (Santos)
16 Brian Baloyi (Kaizer Chiefs)
1 Hans Vonk (Heerenveen, Hol)

DEFENDERS
5 Matthew Booth (Mamelodi Sundowns)
3 Bradley Carnell (Stuttgart, Ger)
13 Pierre Issa (Watford, Eng)
4 David Kannemeyer (Kaizer Chiefs)
2 Mbulelo Mabizela (Orlando Pirates)
19 Aaron Mokoena (Germinal Beerschot, Blg)
20 Frank Schoeman (Lyngby, Den)
6 Ntuthuko Sibaya (Jomo Cosmos)

MIDFIELDERS
18 Delron Buckley (Bochum, Ger)
7 Quinton Fortune (Manchester United, Eng)
8 Thabo Mngomeni (Orlando Pirates)
10 Bennett Mnguni (Mamelodi Sundowns)
12 Dillon Sheppard (Ajax Cape Town)
21 Eric Tinkler (Barnsley, Eng)
15 Sibusiso Zuma (FC Copenhagen, Den)

FORWARDS
11 Bradley August (Santos)
9 Shaun Bartlett (Charlton, Eng)
17 Benni McCarthy (FC Porto, Por)
14 Siyabonga Nomvete (Udinese, Ita)

Coach: Carlos Queiroz (Por)

TOGO

GOALKEEPERS
16 Kossi Agassa (Africa Sports, IvC)
1 Tchagnirou Ouro-Nimimi (Semassi Sokode)
22 Safiou Salifou (ASKO Kara)

DEFENDERS
4 Yaovi Abalo (Amiens, Fra)
18 Amavi Agbobli (Agaza)
12 Eric Akoto (Grazer AK, Aut)
14 Koffi Olympio (Moulain, Fra)
2 Abdel Gafar Maman (Gomido Kpalime)
15 Jafar Moumouni (Delemont, Swi)
3 Yao Senaya (Wangen, Swi)
5 Massamesso Tchangai (Viterbese, Ita)
21 Zanzan Atte-Oudeyi (JS Tenere, Nig)

MIDFIELDERS
6 Emmanuel Adebayor (Metz, Fra)
13 Komlan Assignon (Creteil, Fra)
8 Lantame Ouadja (Carouge, Swi)
19 Moustapha Salifou (Dyto de Lome)

FORWARDS
17 Abdelkader Coubadja (Parma, Ita)
11 Michel Dodji Dogbe (Grenoble, Fra)
7 Thomas Dossevi (La Berichone, Fra)
9 Kossi Noutsoudje (ASEC Abidjan, IvC)
10 Adekambi Olufade (Lille, Fra)
20 Djima Oyawole (Gent, Blg)

Coach: Tchanile Bana

TUNISIA

GOALKEEPERS
16 Hassen Bejaoui (CA Bizerte)
22 Habib Jaouachi (Etoile Sahel)
1 Chokri El Ouaer (Esperance)

DEFENDERS
17 Walid Azaiez (Esperance)
15 Radhi Jaidi (Esperance)
2 Khaled Badra (Genoa, Ita)
12 Raouf Bouzaiene (Genoa, Ita)
4 Mounir Boukadida (Mannheim, Ger)
14 Hamdi Marzouki (Club Africain)
19 Emir Mkademi (Esperance)
6 Hatem Trabelsi (Ajax, Hol)

MIDFIELDERS
18 Slim Benachour (Martigues, Fra)
3 Zoubeir Baya (Besiktas, Tur)
13 Riadh Bouazizi (Bursaspor, Tur)
11 Anis Boujelbene (CS Sfaxien)
8 Hassan Gabsi (Genoa, Ita)
10 Kais Ghodhbane (Etoile Sahel)
5 Mehdi Nafti (Racing Santander, Spa)

FORWARDS
21 Bassem Daassi (Stade Tunisien)
20 Mourad Melki (Esperance)
7 Imed Mhadhebi (Genoa, Ita)
9 Jamel Zabi (CA Bizerte)

Coach: Henri Michel (Fra)

ZAMBIA

GOALKEEPERS
16 Collins Mbulo (Green Buffaloes)
1 Davies Phiri (Kabwe Warriors)

DEFENDERS
3 Charles Bwale (Nkana)
7 Marks Sinyangwe (Nkana)
2 Laughter Chilembe (Nchanga Rangers)
5 Elijah Tana (Nchanga Rangers)
21 Hillary Makasa (Ria Stars, SAf)
6 Jones Mwewa (Power Dynamos)
4 Moses Sichone (Koln, Ger)

MIDFIELDERS
15 Ian Bakala (Kabwe)
14 Francis Kasonde (Kabwe)
8 Charles Lota (Kabwe)
17 Gift Kampamba (Mamelodi Sundowns, SAf)
22 Misheck Lungu (Nchanga Rangers)
13 Numba Mumamba (Zanaco)
12 Boston Mwanza (Nkana)
19 Andrew Sinkala (Koln, Ger)

FORWARDS
9 Cosmas Banda (Zanaco)
18 Nsofwa Chaswe (Zanaco)
20 Philemon Chipeta (Lusaka Dynamos)
10 Dennis Lota (Orlando Pirates, SAf)
11 Harry Milanzi (Atletico Zamora, Mex)

Coach: Roald Poulsen (Den)

African Nations Cup

Group A

Jan 19 - Bamako
Mali 1 (S Keita 87)
Liberia 1 (Weah 45)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Shelmani (Lby)
Mali: M Sidibe - A Coulibaly, F Diawara, B Diarra, Camara (Adama Diakite 21), S Keita, Toure, S Coulibaly (Dissa 60), M Diarra, D Sidibe (David Coulibaly 71), Bagayoko.
Liberia: Crayton - Roberts, Gebro, J Dixon, Kojo, K Sebwe, Makor, Weah, Prince Daye, Seator (Menyongar 79), Debbah.

Jan 21 - Bamako
Algeria 0
Nigeria 1 (Aghahowa 43)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Tangawarima (Zim)
Algeria: Gaouaoui - Haddou, Zafour, Meftah, Bradja, Mansouri, Kraouche, Dziri (Belbey 79), Ghazi, Tasfaout (Akrour 64), Saifi (Kharkhache 85).
Nigeria: Shorunmu - West, Okoronkwo, Udeze, Yobo, S Oliseh, Okocha (Lawal 79), George, Aghahowa, Aiyegbeni (Babangida 79), Agali (N Kanu 46).

Jan 24 - Bamako
Mali 0
Nigeria 0
Att: 50,000. **Ref:** Quartey (Gha)
Mali: M Sidibe - A Coulibaly, F Diawara, B Diarra, D Diakite, S Keita, Toure (David Coulibaly 86), S Coulibaly (Dissa 74), M Diarra, D Sidibe, Bagayoko.
Nigeria: Shorunmu - Yobo, West, Okoronkwo, Babayaro, S Oliseh, George, Okocha (Lawal 78), Aghahowa, N Kanu, Agali (Babangida 65).

Jan 25 - Bamako
Algeria 2 (Akrour 45, Kraouche 90)
Liberia 2 (Prince Daye 7, K Sebwe 72)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Evehe (Cam)
Algeria: Gaouaoui - Slatni, Haddou (Raho 54), Zeghdoud, Meftah, Bradja, Mansouri, Kraouche, Dziri (Tasfaout 65), Ghazi (Akrour 25), Saifi.
Liberia: Crayton - J Dixon, Roberts (D Sebwe 71), Gebro, Kojo (F Johnson 47), K Sebwe, Makor, E Dixon (Menyongar 70), Weah, Debbah, Prince Daye.

Jan 28 - Bamako
Mali 2 (Bagayoko 18, Toure 24)
Algeria 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Lim (Mrs)
Mali: M Sidibe - D Diakite (Doukantie 46), F Diawara, B Diarra, Adama Diakite, D Sidibe, S Keita, Toure, S Coulibaly, M Diarra, Bagayoko.
Algeria: Gaouaoui - Haddou, Zafour, Meftah, Bradja, Mansouri, Belbey, Akrour, Bendahmane (Dziri 40), Tasfaout (Bounekdja 44), Kharkhache (Raho 40).

Jan 28 - Mopti
Liberia 0
Nigeria 1 (Aghahowa 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Ndoye (Sen)
Liberia: Crayton - J Dixon, D Sebwe, Gebro (F Johnson 82), Kojo, K Sebwe, Makor, Yenay, Weah, Seator (Sarr 72), Prince Daye.
Nigeria: Shorunmu - Yobo, West, Okoronkwo, S Oliseh, Udeze, Okocha, George (Babangida 66), Lawal, Aghahowa (Aiyegbeni 90), N Kanu.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
Mali	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Liberia	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Algeria	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Group B

Jan 20 - Segou
Burkina Faso 0
South Africa 0
Att: 12,000. **Ref:** Ndoye (Sen)
Burkina Faso: Kabore - Cisse, M Tall, Tassembedo, Ouattara, Dossama, Panandetiguiri, Toure (Kambou 51), Yameogo (W Sanou 53), O Barro (Alassane Ouedraogo 67), Dagano.
South Africa: Vonk - Mabizela, Carnell, Issa, A Mokoena, Tinkler, Fortune (Mngomeni 59), Zuma, Buckley, B McCarthy (Nomvete 69), Bartlett (August 19).

Jan 21 - Segou
Ghana 0
Morocco 0
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Ghana: Adjei - S Kuffour, Mensah, Mireku, P Owusu-Ansah (Blay 51), Amponsah, Essien, E Duah, Ibrahim, Boakye (Amoah 55), Gyan (Tachie-Mensah 71).
Morocco: Benzekri - Roumani, Fahmi, Naybet, Amzine, Chippo, Ramzi, Safri, Hadda (El Brazi 88), Zerouali (Lafoui 79), Bassir (Rokki 59).

Jan 24 - Segou
Ghana 0
South Africa 0
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Daami (Tun)
Ghana: Adjei - Mensah, Blay, P Owusu-Ansah (Mireku 72), Amponsah (Pantsil 81), Ibrahim, Essien, E Duah (Amoah 77), Gyan, Boateng, I Addo.
South Africa: Vonk - Mabizela, Carnell, Issa, A Mokoena, Tinkler, Fortune (Mngomeni 60), Nomvete (August 60), Buckley, Zuma, B McCarthy.

Jan 26 - Segou
Burkina Faso 1 (Dagano 58)
Morocco 2 (Zerouali 22, 85)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Lim (Mrs)
Burkina Faso: Kabore - Lamine Traore, Cisse (Ouattara 67), M Tall, Dossama, Tassembedo, Panandetiguiri, Ali Ouedraogo (Yameogo 54), W Sanou (Alassane Ouedraogo 72), O Barro, Dagano.
Morocco: Benzekri - Roumani, Fahmi, Naybet, Amzine (El Brazi 32), Boukhari (Lafoui 74), Safri (Benmahmoud 66), Chippo, Ramzi, Zerouali, Bassir.

Jan 30 - Segou
Morocco 1 (Benmahmoud pen 77)
South Africa 3 (Zuma 42, Mngomeni 48, Nomvete 51)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Al-Ghandour (Egy)
Morocco: Benzekri - Roumani, Fahmi, Naybet, El Brazi, Safri, Chippo (Benmahmoud 56), Ramzi, Zerouali, Boukhari (Hadda 53), Bassir (Rokki 84).
South Africa: Vonk - Mabizela, Carnell, Issa, A Mokoena, Tinkler, Mngomeni, Mnguni (Sheppard 70), Zuma, Buckley (Nomvete 32), B McCarthy (Sibaya 81).

Jan 30 - Mopti
Burkina Faso 1 (Toure 82)
Ghana 2 (Boakye 89, 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Chukwujekwu (Ngr)
Burkina Faso: Kabore - M Tall, Cisse, Tassembedo (F Sanou 64), O Traore, Dossama, Yameogo (W Sanou 47), Panandetiguiri, Toure, O Barro (Alassane Ouedraogo 39), Dagano.
Ghana: Adjei - Mireku, Amponsah, Mensah, Blay (Pantsil 46), P Owusu-Ansah, Ibrahim, E Duah (Amoako 46), E Kuffour, Boateng, I Addo (Boakye 66).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Ghana	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Morocco	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Burkina Faso	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

Group C

Jan 20 - Sikasso
Cameroon 1 (Mboma 40)
DR Congo 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Coffi (Ben)
Cameroon: Alioum - Njitap, Song, Kalla, Tchato, Foe, Etame-Mayer, Olembe (Dika Dika 60), Wome, Mboma, Eto'o (Suffo 90).
DR Congo: Tokala - Kayembe, Kisombe, Yuvuladio, Bakasu, Mayele (Mbiyavanga 62), Mbayo, Apataki (Tekumu 69), Bukasa, Nonda (Boeka-Lisasi 85), Lua Lua.

Jan 21 - Sikasso
Ivory Coast 0
Togo 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Chukwujekwu (Ngr)
Ivory Coast: Konate - Kone, Toure, Blaise Kouassi, Coulibaly, Diabate, Guel, Siby (Zokora 46), K Keita, Bakayoko (Traore 66), Dindane (Kalou 68).
Togo: Agassa - Akoto, Abalo, Olympio, Atte-Oudeyi, Ouadja, Dogbe (Dossevi 80), Olufade, Assignon (A G Maman 82), Senaya, Coubadja (Oyawole 57).

Jan 25 - Sikasso
Cameroon 1 (Mboma 84)
Ivory Coast 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Al-Ghandour (Egy)
Cameroon: Alioum - Njitap, Kalla, Song, Tchato, Foe, Etame-Mayer, Olembe (Ngom Kome 66), Wome, Eto'o, Mboma.
Ivory Coast: Konate - Kone, Toure, Zokora, Blaise Kouassi, Diabate, Siby, Coulibaly, Guel (Zoko 88), Bakayoko (Traore 78), K Keita.

Jan 26 - Sikasso
DR Congo 0
Togo 0
Att: 7,000. **Ref:** Hailemalak (Eth)
DR Congo: Tokala - Bageta, Bakasu Muamba, Kimoto, Mayele, Kisombe, Mbiyavanga (Tekumu 53), Mbayo (Apataki 59), Lua Lua, Boeka-Lisasi (Esengo 66).
Togo: Agassa - Akoto, Abalo, Olympio, Atte-Oudeyi, Ouadja, Assignon, Noutsoudje, Senaya, Oyawole (Coubadja 52), Dogbe (Dossevi 64; Olufade 85).

Jan 29 - Sikasso
Cameroon 3 (Mettomo 52, Eto'o 79, Olembe 89)
Togo 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Mathabela (SAf)
Cameroon: Alioum - Song, Kalla, Tchato, Njitap, Foe, Ngom Kome, Djemba (Ndo 46), Mettomo (Olembe 63), Mboma (N'Diefi 82), Eto'o.
Togo: Agassa - Akoto, Abalo, Olympio, Atte-Oudeyi (Oyawole 62), A G Maman, Adebayor (Olufade 74), Senaya, M Salifou, Dogbe, Coubadja (Dossevi 78).

Jan 29 - Kayes
DR Congo 3 (Yuvuladio 27, Nonda 66, Kimoto pen 81)
Ivory Coast 1 (Traore 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Tangawarima (Zim)
DR Congo: Tokala - Kisombe, Bageta, Muamba, Yuvuladio, Kimoto, Mayele (Manzangala 66), Mulekelanyi (Apataki 85), Esengo (Tekumu 62), Lua Lua, Nonda.
Ivory Coast: Konate - Toure, Coulibaly, Blaise Kouassi, Kone, Diabate (Bakayoko 37), Akassou (Kante 25), Siby, Yapi Yapo, K Keita, Kalou (Traore 72).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	3	3	0	0	5	0	9
DR Congo	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Togo	3	0	2	1	0	3	2
Ivory Coast	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

Group D

Jan 20 - Bamako
Egypt 0
Senegal 1 (Diatta 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Guezzaz (Mor)
Egypt: Al-Hadary - Emara, Ramzy, El Saka, H Said, Radwan, T Said (T El Sayed 81), Barakat (Fahim 75), A Hassan, Bebo (Emam 75), Hossam.
Senegal: Sylva - Daf, Sarr (P B Diop 84), Coly, A Cisse, H Camara, Fadiga, Diouf, Diatta, Moussa N'Diaye (Thiaw 68), Diao.

Jan 21 - Bamako
Tunisia 0
Zambia 0
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Coulibaly (Mli)
Tunisia: El Ouaer - Badra, Baya, Nafti (Gabsi 46), H Trabelsi (Ghodhbane 73), Marzouki, Jaidi, Bouzaiene, Bouazizi, Mhadhebi (Daassi 65), Zabi.
Zambia: Phiri - Chilembe, Sichone, Tana, Sinyangwe (Makasa 68), C Lota, Mumamba (Chaswe 68), Kampamba (Mwewa 89), Sinkala, D Lota, Lungu.

Jan 25 - Bamako
Egypt 1 (Emam 23)
Tunisia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Arturo Ibanez (Spa)
Egypt: Al-Hadary - Emara, El Saka, H Said, Radwan, Ramzy, Barakat, Emam (T El Sayed 71), A Hassan, Hossam (Bebo 36), Hosni (Fahim 82).
Tunisia: El Ouaer - Badra, H Trabelsi (Gabsi 69), Marzouki, Jaidi, Bouzaiene (Mkademi 46), Bouazizi, Baya, Ghodhbane, Zabi, Melki (Mhadhebi 56).

Jan 26 - Bamako
Senegal 1 (S Camara 90)
Zambia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Shelmani (Lby)
Senegal: Sylva - Sarr, A Cisse, Coly, Diatta, Ndour, Diao, H Camara (S Camara 84), Fadiga (Makhtar N'Diaye 46), Diouf, Thiaw (Sylvain N'Diaye 46).
Zambia: Phiri - Makasa, Sichone, Tana, Sinyangwe, Mumamba (Chilembe 84), Bakala (Chaswe 75), Kampamba, C Lota, Sinkala, Milanzi (Banda 88).

Jan 31 - Bamako
Egypt 2 (Hossam 35, Emam 53)
Zambia 1 (Kampamba 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Codjia (Ben)
Egypt: Al-Hadary - Fahim, Emara, El Saka, Radwan, Ramzy (T Said 49), Barakat, Emam, A Hassan, H Hassan (Hosni 81), Hossam.
Zambia: Phiri - Chilembe, Makasa, Sichone, Tana, Bakala, C Lota (Kampamba 65), Mumamba (Chaswe 84), Sinkala, Banda (Milanzi 65), D Lota.

Jan 31 - Kayes
Senegal 0
Tunisia 0
Att: 8,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Senegal: Diallo - Daf, P M Diop, P B Diop, A Cisse (S Camara 60), Sylvain N'Diaye, A Faye, Beye, Makhtar N'Diaye, Moussa N'Diaye (Diao 81), A Traore (Diouf 66).
Tunisia: El Ouaer - Boukadida, H Trabelsi, Jaidi, Mkademi, Nafti (Bouzaiene 65), Baya, Bouazizi, Benachour, Mhadhebi (Melki 83), Zabi (Daassi 56).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
Egypt	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Tunisia	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Zambia	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Quarter-finals

Feb 3 - Kayes
South Africa 0
Mali 2 (Toure 60, Dramane Coulibaly 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Arturo Ibanez (Spa)
South Africa: Vonk - Mabizela (August 86), Carnell, Issa, A Mokoena, Tinkler, Mngomeni, Fortune (Buckley 73), Nomvete (Bartlett 66), Zuma, B McCarthy.
Mali: M Sidibe - A Coulibaly, F Diawara, B Diarra, Adama Diakite, S Keita, Toure, S Coulibaly (Dramane Coulibaly 82), M Diarra, D Sidibe, Bagayoko.

Feb 3 - Bamako
Nigeria 1 (Lawal 80)
Ghana 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Guezzaz (Mor)
Nigeria: Shorunmu (Akanji 38) - Yobo, West, Okoronkwo, Udeze, S Oliseh, Okocha (Oruma 90), George (Aiyegbeni 90), Lawal, Aghahowa, N Kanu.
Ghana: Adjei - Mireku, Amponsah, Mensah, Pantsil, P Owusu-Ansah, Ibrahim, Amoako (E Duah 88), E Kuffour, Boateng (Amoah 88), Boakye.

Feb 4 - Sikasso
Cameroon 1 (Mboma 61)
Egypt 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Daami (Tun)
Cameroon: Alioum - Tchato, Kalla, Song, Njitap, Wome, Foe, Etame-Mayer, Olembe (Ngom Kome 73), Eto'o (Suffo 90), Mboma.
Egypt: Al-Hadary - Emara, Ramzy, El Saka, Fahim (Gomaa 53), Radwan, Barakat, A Hassan (Bebo 81), Emam, Hossam, Hosni (Hamza 66).

Feb 4 - Bamako
Senegal 2 (Diao 31, Diouf 87)
DR Congo 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Senegal: Sylva - Daf, A Cisse, Diatta, Coly, Sarr, Diao, Sylvain N'Diaye (P B Diop 75), H Camara (S Camara 81), Fadiga, Diouf.
DR Congo: Tokala - Yuvuladio, Bageta, Muamba, Bakasu, Kimoto, Mbayo (Apataki 82), Mulekelanyi (Manzangala 26), Esengo, Lua Lua, Boeka-Lisasi (Tekumu 48). *Sent off: Tekumu 88min.*

Semi-finals

Feb 7 - Bamako
Senegal 2 (P B Diop 54, Diao 107)
Nigeria 1 (Aghahowa 89)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Codjia (Ben)
Senegal: Sylva - Coly, Daf, A Cisse, Diatta, Sarr, Diao (A Faye 112), P B Diop, Fadiga, H Camara (S Camara 90), Diouf. *Sent off: Sarr 35min.*
Nigeria: Shorunmu - Yobo, Okoronkwo, West, Udeze, George (Babangida 68), Lawal (Ojigwe 105), Okocha (Oruma 74), S Oliseh, Aghahowa, N Kanu. *Sent off: Aghahowa 110min, Udeze 120min.*

Feb 7 - Bamako
Mali 0
Cameroon 3 (Olembe 40, 45, Foe 84)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Lim (Mrs)
Mali: M Sidibe - D Diakite (Doukantie 46), A Coulibaly, F Diawara, B Diarra (S Diawara 46), D Sidibe (Dissa 73), S Keita, Toure, S Coulibaly, M Diarra, Bagayoko.
Cameroon: Alioum - Tchato, Wome, Song, Kalla, Njitap, Etame-Mayer, Foe, Olembe (Ngom Kome 89), Eto'o (Djemba 89), N'Diefi (Suffo 83).

Third-place play-off

Feb 9 - Mopti
Mali 0
Nigeria 1 (Aiyegbeni 31)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Shelmani (Lby)
Mali: M Sidibe (K Keita 33) - S Diawara, A Coulibaly, F Diawara, Adama Diakite, D Sidibe, S Keita, Toure, S Coulibaly (Dissa 46), M Diarra, Bagayoko (Dabo 79).
Nigeria: Akanji - Yobo, Ojigwe, Ejiofor, Christopher, S Oliseh, Oruma (George 88), Lawal, Babangida (N Kanu 74), Aiyegbeni, Ikpeba.

End of the road

Paddy Agnew on the likely retirement of Roberto Baggio

THE REIGN of the Little Prince may have ended. Roberto Baggio's engaging struggle to fight his way back into the Italy team for this summer's World Cup finals came to a painful end on January 31 when he injured both the cruciate ligament and a lateral cartilage in his left knee while playing for Brescia in an Italian Cup semi-final tie against Parma.

Examined four days later in Bologna by Professor Maurillo Marcacci, Baggio was greeted with a brutally frank diagnosis. He had a ruptured cruciate ligament that would require surgery and a consequent minimum recovery period of three to four months. In other words, Baggio was not only out for the rest of the season, but also out of the World Cup.

Dame Fortune, often unkind in her dealings with Baggio, appears to have dealt a killer blow to his career. By the time he recovers from this latest operation, he will be 35-plus. For many, it would be only logical that he retire from football now, rather than struggle his way back to fitness merely to play out a potentially anonymous season with relegation-battling Brescia next year.

Goodnight, sweet Prince...retirement looms for Baggio

Baggio, however, has surprised us before. It could well be that he will opt for a 'last hurrah' to a glittering career during which he has won 55 caps for Italy, a League title with Juventus (1995), and played a total of 391 Serie A games, scoring 178 goals.

Back in autumn 1997, not many would have predicted that Baggio would go on to score 22 goals during a swashbuckling season in self-imposed banishment at provincial Bologna and force his way back into the Italy team for France 98. Only six months ago, not many would have predicted a brilliant seasonal start with Brescia, scoring eight goals in the club's opening eight Serie A games.

We suspect that Baggio will come back, even from this latest drama, if only to depart the world stage in another, more fitting manner. But his 'last hurrah' will have much more emotional than footballing significance. Realistically, his days at the top of the greasy pole are over.

Mercurial, inventive, blessed with perfect balance and a natural velvet touch, Baggio has been Italy's most famous footballer, practically from the moment he went on a spectacular slalom run to score a tremendous goal against Czechoslovakia at Italia 90.

All the highlights, and indeed the oft-reviewed lowlight, of his career came in the Italian jersey. His goalscoring instincts single-footedly put Italy into the USA 94 Final against Brazil. He, too, it was who then missed the all-important last penalty during the shoot-out that decided that dramatic game.

An analysis of Baggio's club record, however, leads to some dismal conclusions. Even though he played for Italy's three most successful clubs – Juventus, Milan and Internazionale – it was only with 'provincial' sides Fiorentina, Bologna and Brescia that he was able to play to the maximum of his potential.

This was partly because of his many injuries, but it was also a reflection of the lack of space offered him at the big clubs. With Fiorentina, Bologna and Brescia, everything passed via his delicate feet. In such circumstances, he was outstanding when asked to perform a genuine 'playmaking' role.

By contrast, he was often asked to perform a more menial role at Inter, Milan and Juventus in the context of their strong squads, in which he was far from being the only household name, not to say potential match-winner.

Likewise, Baggio's much-documented clashes with coaches (Sacchi with Italy, Capello at Milan, Ulivieri at Bologna and Lippi at Inter) were not proof that he was a temperamental prima donna but merely a reflection of the pressure brought to bear on the coach by his off-the-field fame and popularity.

For example, when Cesare Maldini opted to use Alessandro Del Piero rather than Baggio during the France 98 finals, he was greeted with howls of dismay not only from half the Italian nation but also (publicly) from then Prime Minister Romano Prodi.

Soft-spoken, almost shy but very articulate and never frightened to defend his Buddhist convictions, Baggio was never a stereotypical footballer. When he does retire, he can do so knowing that football is much more indebted to him than he to football.

On the very day of Baggio's recent injury, one of his old clubs, Juventus, also found herself in trouble. In a ground-breaking trial in her native Turin, the 'Old Lady' was charged with systematic doping practices.

Managing director Antonio Giraudo and club doctor Ricardo Agricola were in court to answer charges of having supplied pharmaceutical products, including the infamous integrator Creatine, to club players between July 1994 and September 1998 with a view to improving team performances.

This trial, which is likely to take years rather than months, is the result of a three-year long inquiry carried out by the Turin-based public prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello. He had been prompted to look into the question of doping practices in Italian football by a controversial accusation made by former Roma and Lazio coach Zdenek Zeman in July 1998.

Speaking in the immediate aftermath of that summer's EPO-dominated Tour de France, during which French team Festina were kicked out of the race, the Czech told Italian weekly *L'Espresso* that doping practices were not restricted to cycling but were also widespread in Italian soccer. In particular, Zeman pointed an accusatory finger at Juventus, suggesting that certain players, including club idols Gianluca Vialli and Alessandro Del Piero, had both made inexplicable physiological progress.

Prosecutor Guariniello will argue that, while all the drugs used by Juventus were legal, they were used in such quantities and combinations that they de facto functioned as illicit stimulants. Juventus, for their part, deny any wrongdoing, with defence lawyer Luigi Chiappero explaining: "This will be a very technical trial. It's not that we deny using all the medicinal products that the prosecution charges. On the contrary, we admit nearly all of them, but we deny vehemently that we used them for doping purposes. And we intend to demonstrate that with the help of expert witnesses."

Finally, since we were last in print, two more Serie A coaches – Roberto Mancini at Fiorentina and Alberto Cavasin at Lecce – have parted company with their clubs, being replaced by Ottavio Bianchi and Delio Rossi respectively.

Seven clubs (Lazio, Venezia, Parma, Milan and Udinese are the others) have now changed coach at least once (Parma and Venezia twice) since last August. As we pointed out last month, the life and times of the modern coach can be short, sharp and spectacularly remunerative.

Celta have the edge

The Galicians lead a tight title race, but Real Madrid are still dreaming of the treble. Jeff King reports

Happy Galicians...Celta Vigo skipper Mostovoi (centre) and his men acclaim another goal on their way to the top of La Liga

"NOBODY knows anything." The celebrated quote from Oscar-winning screenwriter William Goldman about the ingredients that make a hit movie describe the Spanish title race perfectly. Two-thirds of the way through the season, a mere four points separates leaders Celta Vigo from seventh-placed Barcelona, and it's anybody's guess who will top the box-office ratings in May.

By the time you read this, a game of musical chairs that also features Real Madrid, Valencia, Alaves, Deportivo and Betis will no doubt have taken a fresh twist. Or maybe Athletic Bilbao, who are only five points behind Celta in eighth, will have kicked the chairs from under the whole darn bunch.

Celta kicked off 2002 with draws against Rayo Vallecano, Osasuna and Tenerife. Three wins against that modest trio and they'd really have been sitting pretty. And how the Galicians must rue a three-game losing streak in November against Las Palmas, Bilbao and Alaves, their only defeats to date. Nonetheless, this Celta team is more resolute than previous models.

Just two defeats in 11 away games is evidence they are no longer a soft touch on the road, while a Spanish-high 42 goals in 23 games shows their handsome football now has a cutting edge. Top scorer Catanha (11 goals) still ploughs a relatively lonely furrow in attack, but Edu, Jesuli and Alexander Mostovoi have pitched in with 22 from midfield. Throw in Vagner's excellent form in more defensive duties and Celta's midfield is no longer overly dependent on veteran duo Mostovoi and Valeri Karpin.

"Getting knocked out of the UEFA Cup and the Spanish Cup early on means we've been able to focus on the League," says coach Victor Fernandez.

Bearing in mind that Real Madrid, Depor, Barça and Valencia are still involved in European competition, that could be an even more significant factor in the run-in. Madrid are still title favourites, though a heavy workload threatens to take its toll. After seven straight wins, two points in three games were the by-product of a gruelling two-legged Spanish Cup semi-final victory against Bilbao.

Spain's domestic Cup has rarely been a Real priority. However, the fact that this year's Final (against Deportivo on March 6) takes place on the club's 100th birthday and at the Bernabeu has upped the ante.

"Winning the club's first treble in its 100-year history is our grand objective," says Real's sports director Jorge Valdano, "though maybe we're asking too much of the players."

In the 2-1 defeat at Espanyol, Madrid were without Fernando Hierro, Zinedine Zidane (both injured) and Claude Makelele (suspended) – and it showed. Coach Vicente Del Bosque better get used to juggling his resources. In February alone, Madrid play nine games in one 25-day period.

Barcelona's 6-0 win at Tenerife was a turn-up in more ways than one. Before that goal glut at Spain's bottom club, Barça had managed just three wins and eight goals in 10 games on the road. After his team's 2-1 defeat in their previous away match, at Rayo Vallecano, coach Carles Rexach accused his players of being "unprofessional". Two days later that description took on a whole new meaning.

Front-page headlines in all four Spanish sports papers claimed that five Barça players had entertained a group of prostitutes in their hotel before the Rayo game. The club held a press conference to deny the stories, though sports director Anton Parera conceded that a group of players had spent 30 minutes in a room with four girls, as he put it, "signing autographs and posing for photos".

Given that these guys normally smile for photos through gritted teeth, this was at best uncharacteristic behaviour. Especially just before midnight on the eve of a game.

Whether the story is true or not, the fact that most Spaniards accepted it without blinking says everything about the Camp Nou zeitgeist. Too many of the players involved (legal niceties prevent *World Soccer* naming them) have a history of unprofessional behaviour. Not for nothing has the club hired private detectives to monitor extra-curricular activities. And, given a salacious track record in their own playing days, neither Rexach nor his assistant, Jose Ramon Alexanco, could take the moral high ground. True to form, Rexach insisted the press should have ignored the story even if it were true!

Not surprisingly, Barcelona were booed when they took the field the following Sunday at home to Osasuna. Immediately after a 1-0 defeat and even noisier protests, Rexach offered club president Joan Gaspart his resignation. Given the precedents, it was a surprise Gaspart didn't accept.

After 22 games, Rexach's team had 10 points fewer than at the same stage last season (nine games before Llorenc Serra Ferrer was sacked). That amounted to Barça's worst start since 1979-80 (when Helenio Herrera was

one of three sacked coaches). Not since the 1987-88 season (when Terry Venables was sacked in September) had Barça lost so many times in 22 games out of the gate. And not since that same 1987-88 campaign (which ended with Luis Aragones being sacked) had they scored so few goals.

"If I said we're going to win the League after that, people would say: 'This guy has lost his marbles,'" admitted Rexach. Then came Tenerife. And they say a week is a long time in politics.

Deportivo's lack of mettle away from Riazor continues to undermine their title challenge. A mid-winter run of six defeats in seven away games, was "deplorable", according to club president Augusto Cesar Lendoiro. But a cushion of points won in the autumn means Depor are still right in the hunt.

Depor's away-day blues are part of Spanish football folklore. So is the rest of the country's habit of blaming Real-supporting referees and FA bureaucrats for that club's purple patches. "Referees are already celebrating Madrid's

Happy returns...Savo Milosevic

centenary," said Valencia president Jaime Orti after his side's 1-0 defeat at the Bernabeu, where Adrian Ilie's goal was disallowed for a non-existent offside. "The rest of us can only fight for the scraps. Whoever comes second will be the real champions."

Such was the ensuing media hysteria that Del Bosque was forced to counter-attack. "When we were struggling we looked inside the club for solutions," he said. "Valencia should ask themselves why they've scored so few goals and what Aimar, Carew and Kily, who cost a fortune, are doing on the bench."

Spain's mid-season transfer window produced an unprecedented lack of activity. Overall, only 18 players were added to playing staffs at a total cost of £14million, down from last year's £32m. Experience finally seems to have taught the clubs that mid-season messiahs too often turn out as costly pariahs. The names Bogarde, De Boer, Prosinecki, Aimar, Esnaider and Collymore all sit easily in a sentence with the words 'expensive' and 'flops'.

Most newsworthy was the return of Yugoslav duo Savo Milosevic and Darko Kovacevic to Spanish pastures. Milosevic, on loan at former club Zaragoza after 18 bench-ridden months at Parma, scored twice out of the blocks in the 3-2 win over Rayo, though it was too late for coach Chechu Rojo, who'd been replaced by Luis Costa earlier the same week.

Real Sociedad's £10m investment in Kovacevic, Sander Westerveld and Nihat Kahveci represented 71 per cent of total mid-season business. Kovacevic, who scored a goal every other game in his previous spell at Anoeta, looks a pretty safe bet, but otherwise, coach John Toshack's track record in the transfer market hardly inspires confidence.

The inept performances of centre-back recruits Bjorn Kvarme and Luiz Alberto are the main reason Sociedad are in a relegation dog-fight. And nobody at Real Madrid has forgotten the millions the Welshman squandered on Geremi and Elvir Baljic. His fondness for players with either a background at Anfield (Kvarme, Westerveld) or in Turkey (Nihat, Geremi, Baljic) is regarded as very suspicious by the Spanish media.

Throw in the fact that Kvarme and Luiz Alberto both played for Toshack at his last club, Saint-Etienne, and you see a man who doesn't kill himself scouting.

Sociedad were second from bottom after 23 games and in danger of losing a top-flight status that dates back 35 years. A proud club deserves better.

Pro-file Francisco Pavon

Local boy claims his place among Madrid's millionaires

NOBODY is admitting as much now, but more than a few Spanish eyebrows were raised last summer when Real Madrid spent £47.2million on Zinedine Zidane yet failed to invest a single peseta in their suspect defence.

Now it seems Vicente Del Bosque had a more economic ace up his sleeve than media darlings Alessandro Nesta and Lilian Thuram.

Eleven years after enrolling at Real's youth academy, Francisco Pavon made his League debut against Athletic Bilbao in October. A couple of weeks later, the local boy started his first game, against Celta. The tall, slim centre-half has been a fixture ever since.

"After working behind the scenes for so long, Del Bosque knows all Madrid's apprentices perfectly," says Pavon, who made his debut the same day as fellow youngsters Raul Bravo and Valdo. "Now he's first-team coach, home-grown players definitely have more options."

Pavon's emergence has coincided with a marked improvement in Madrid's defensive statistics. In the six League games before his debut, they shipped 12 goals. In the ensuing 16 fixtures, they conceded just another 12. Not surprisingly, Pavon has leapfrogged Aitor Karanka and Ivan Campo in the defensive pecking order.

The 22-year-old is a cool, unflustered presence, despite citing the Red Hot Chilli Peppers as his favourite band. "I don't have time to get nervous on the pitch," he says, "and Fernando Hierro gives me enormous security with his constant advice. What better mentor could I have than Europe's best centre-back? Del Bosque is a big help, too. Before every game he'll talk me through the characteristics of the opposing forwards."

Finding a reliable partner for Hierro has long been a Madrid priority. "There's been a couple of months without speculation about signing centre-halves," says Pavon, who signed a three-year contract extension in December. "A couple of bad games and the rumours will start again. But I've been here since I was 10 and my idea is to stick around for as long as possible."

The youngster, who like Raul hails from a family of Atletico fans on Madrid's industrial outskirts, complements his feet-on-the-ground attitude with a lack of vanity. "The worst thing for a defender is conceding goals," he insists. "I don't care how many times an attacker nutmegs me as long as he doesn't score!"

Jeff King

Fact file

Club Real Madrid
Country Spain
Born January 9, 1980, in Gandia

Bayern back – but no better

The champions' poor form has continued despite having the winter break to regroup. Nick Bidwell reports

Humbled...Jens Jeremies (right) takes a tumble during Bayern's 5-1 defeat by Schalke

BAYERN MUNICH, champions for the past three years, appear determined to allow someone else a chance to lift the Bundesliga shield this season.

The winter break was supposed to be a quick-fix for Bayern's problems, an opportunity to reduce a lengthy injury list, rest exhausted players and generally regroup after a poor run of form before Christmas.

However, the theory did not translate into reality when they crashed 5-1 at Schalke on the first weekend after the mid-winter interval, their heaviest defeat since losing by the same margin at Freiburg in August 1994.

Against Schalke, Bayern were anything but refreshed and raring to go. After long spells out with injury, Stefan Effenberg, Mehmet Scholl and Jens Jeremies still lacked match sharpness, while most of their team-mates seemed resigned to their fate.

Schalke dominated a ragged Bayern in every area and easily extracted a measure of revenge for being pipped by the Bavarians to last season's League title.

The Ruhr club have laid down the anti-Bayern blueprint for all to follow. Stifle them in midfield with an aggressive pressing game, pump long passes into their box and wait for them to implode.

Certainly, Bayern have never appeared so vulnerable defensively. Schalke's first two goals, struck home in the space of 60 seconds towards the end of the first half by Emile Mpenza and Ebbe Sand, resulted from a failure by Bayern's rearguard to deal with high through balls. Then careless errors from Thomas Linke and Robert Kovac paved the way for Jorg Bohme, Marco Van Hoogdalem and Niels Oude Kamphuis to stretch the scoreline to humiliating proportions.

To poison the atmosphere even more, skipper Stefan Effenberg – whose poor form since returning from injury has made him, in the eyes of many, the symbol of the team's malaise – then thought it advisable to slam the team selection of coach Ottmar Hitzfeld as well as a number of unnamed colleagues.

Hitzfeld, the arch-disciplinarian, who had been brought in three years ago specifically to call time on endemic player power at the club, promptly told his captain to mind his own business. "It's not on for any player here to openly criticise another," said Hitzfeld, while insisting that even though Bayern were now eight points and five places off top spot, all was not lost.

"Although it's hard to believe after this thrashing, the League title is still within our capabilities. I expect a big reaction from the team. They must show the fight I expected them to show at Schalke. From now on we have to battle for every ball. Only like that can we redress the situation."

Bayern's slump – four straight away defeats and only two points from seven games – meant Hitzfeld came in for an unprecedented level of criticism. Club vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge even gave a vote of confidence to the man who led the team to German, European and World titles in 2001.

A Bayern crisis always produces a media feeding frenzy, and no one has a sharper bite than ex-Bayern star Paul Breitner. "During the winter training camp, the message was how well everyone was working at Bayern, but after the Schalke game, the tune had changed to the players being unfit and fearful," snapped Breitner. "I have never heard anything like it. The Bundesliga is not a rehabilitation centre. It cannot be right that certain players [ie Effenberg, Scholl and Jeremies] were selected against Schalke only to give them match practice, while outstanding players sat on the bench. A class player like Effenberg should need only one game not seven to rediscover his best form. Now he is a pseudo playmaker.

"They talk about defending their Bundesliga title. But it might be more appropriate to think about preventing them falling further down the table."

Ironically, Huub Stevens, the Schalke boss responsible for humbling Bayern, will soon be packing his bags. The Dutchman, who has been with Schalke for six years and guided them to lift the UEFA Cup in 1997 and the German Cup last season, informed club managing director Rudi Assauer during the winter break that he would be leaving at the end of the season. He explained that he wanted to return to Holland, where his family have remained despite his employment in Germany.

Rumours had him going to PSV Eindhoven or even becoming boss of Holland. Then came the bombshell. Stevens had signed a three-year contract with Hertha Berlin and would be taking over from Jurgen Rober in the summer.

Stevens denied he had begun talks with Hertha before handing in his notice, and Assauer took him at his word. Yet, whatever happened, the result is the same – Schalke have lost a fine coach.

In the search for a replacement, Schalke wrong-footed everyone. It was generally assumed they would go for a high-profile appointment such as PSV's Eric Gerets or ex-Hansa Rostock and Hamburg boss Frank Pagelsdorf. Instead, Assauer plumped for Frank Neubarth, the 39-year-old coach of Werder Bremen amateurs.

A gamble indeed. Neubarth, a former Werder striker, has never coached in the Bundesliga and has been in charge of the Bremen part-timers for less than three years. While he has a good reputation for bringing on quality youngsters – two of his proteges, defender Tim Borowski and midfielder Razundara Tjikuzu, are now in the Werder first team – cynics claim the appointment had more to do with Assauer's desire to completely rule the Schalke roost, omnipotence he could more easily achieve with a novice coach at the helm.

From coaching appointments to sackings. Ewald Lienen of Koln became the fourth Bundesliga boss to be shown the door this season when dismissed following the latest in a long line of reverses for his team, a 3-0 loss at 1860 Munich.

After taking the 'Kolner' up to the top flight in 2000 and masterminding a creditable 10th-place finish last term, Lienen had a lot of friends in the Rhineland city. But a run of just one win in 14 games made his position untenable, and chairman Albert Caspers brought down the curtain.

FRANCE

Marseille take Spanish steps

MARSEILLE have borrowed a couple of talented Spaniards from Barcelona and seem to be reaping the benefit. However, a heartening 1-0 win in the French Cup away to Lens, who are setting a hectic pace in the League, was followed by the typical Marseille anticlimax of a defeat by the same score in the League at modest Troyes.

The better known of the two Spaniards is centre-forward Alfonso, once well known for the white boots with which he scored so many goals for Real Betis, having been cast out as a youngster by Real Madrid.

Alfonso is now 29 and has won 38 caps with Spain. His career has been blighted by the familiar curse of knee troubles. At Barcelona, he suffered from the typical embarrassment of riches that has long afflicted Camp Nou, but he is far too good a player to be cooling his heels on the bench.

"With these players," says coach Albert Emon, somewhat cautiously, "it's a little less difficult than before."

The other Spanish newcomer, Rivera, has already shown he can score, with his important goal at Lens. The 23-year-old, himself once at Real Madrid and a League debutant at 16, is fast and highly versatile.

The latest little team to make a big impact in the French Cup are Lusitanos, the side from the Paris suburbs that are the symbols of the Portuguese community. They were no higher than 15th in the humble National League when they dared to eliminate mighty Bordeaux 2-0.

Lusitanos' success, in the wake of so many others by France's minnows in the national Cup, again raises doubts about just how much the competition means to the bigger clubs.

Fourth Division Libourne-Saint-Seurin claimed another top-flight scalp, beating Metz 2-1. The result led to the dismissal of Metz coach Albert Cartier, who was already under pressure with the side second bottom in the table.

Former French international and ex-Swiss national coach Gilbert Gress is the new man in charge. The 60-year-old, who led Strasbourg to the French championship in 1979, parted company with FC Zurich last season and was free to start immediately.

Three Frenchmen in next season's Real Madrid team? It does look as if Arsenal's Patrick Vieira will be joining Zinedine Zidane, said to want him there badly, and Claude Makelele.

Andre Duclos

Immediate impact...Marseille new signing Alfonso

Pro-file Torsten Frings

Midfield revelation in demand from the Bundesliga big boys

ALL bets are off about the future direction of in-form Werder Bremen defensive midfielder Torsten Frings.

After turning down approaches from Hertha Berlin and Arsenal, Frings declared during the winter break that Dortmund were his favoured destination, a predictable assertion given that the Ruhr club were said to be offering him £1.7million a year.

Even so, it is by no means certain that he is bound for Dortmund. Bayer Leverkusen are also in the hunt, seeing Frings as a replacement for Bayern Munich-bound Michael Ballack, while Bremen are insisting he sees out his contract, which runs until summer 2003.

But will Werder really be prepared to pass on an expected £5m fee?

A change of role has been instrumental in turning Frings into hot property. Previously, he had done well as Werder's in-house utility man, playing at right-back, as a left- or right-sided midfielder or up front. But the decision of coach Thomas Schaaf to make him the team's midfield anchor at the start of this season has allowed the 25-year-old to make the leap from being good to outstanding. He has been one of the Bundesliga players of the season thus far.

"I love being in central midfield," says Frings. "I get more of the ball, I'm more involved. But I've got a lot more to offer. I'm too good just to destroy. Though I'm no Zidane, I see myself as a playmaker.

"There are no better midfielders in the Bundesliga at the moment. I don't have to feel inferior to Sebastian Deisler, Michael Ballack, Sebastian Kehl or anyone else."

No shortage of confidence there, although national coach Rudi Voller has yet to be convinced about his abilities. He has played Frings only twice, both times as substitute, and will not have appreciated the midfielder going public with his national team frustrations.

"I'm disappointed that Rudi Voller has not taken note of my progress," bemoaned Frings after being left out of the squad for the World Cup play-offs against Ukraine. "I haven't been given a real chance to prove myself in the national team. If I was Rudi Voller, I'd pick Torsten Frings.

"Perhaps it's because Werder haven't as much clout within the German federation as some of the big-name clubs. It seems easier to become a regular for Germany if you are at a top club. That's why I'm tempted to move to one of them."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Werder Bremen
Country Germany
Born November 22, 1976, in Aachen
Previous clubs Rot-Weiss Alsdorf, Rhenania Alsdorf, Alemannia Aachen
International debut February 2001, v France
International caps 2 (0 goals)
Honours German Cup 1999

Extra time for Fergie

Gavin Hamilton on Alex Ferguson's decision to stay on as Manchester United manager

IT WAS always going to be difficult for Sir Alex Ferguson to make a clean break from Manchester United after 16 years in charge.

Now, it seems, with the United board struggling to find a successor, he has agreed to stay on as manager for at least two years.

The announcement last summer that 2001-02 was to be Ferguson's last season at the helm cast a long shadow over the campaign. The players appeared to lack motivation and defensive frailties exposed by the surprise sale of Jaap Stam only added to Ferguson's early-season woes.

But in the past two months, Ferguson's men have hit the sort of form that was predicted following the summer signings of Ruud Van Nistelrooy and Juan Sebastian Veron. In doing so, they appear to have rekindled Ferguson's passion for the game. Not that the flames had ever been completely extinguished.

Through December and January, United recovered their form to move from eighth to first place in the League. After the shock 1-0 home defeat by West Ham on December 8, Ferguson's men won eight games in a row, before being beaten 1-0 by Liverpool at Old Trafford.

In particular, the form of Van Nistelrooy, who set a Premiership record when scoring in all eight of the run of victories, brought it home to Ferguson the sort of talent on which he would be turning his back. The recent signing of Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan has boosted United's attacking potential still further, although a deal to sign Paolo Di Canio from West Ham never materialised.

But the recent good run of form is just one of a number of factors contributing to Ferguson's decision to stay on board.

United chief executive Peter Kenyon claimed to have one person in mind as Ferguson's replacement, yet he never named his man. Significantly, the leading managers to be linked with the job – Sven Goran Eriksson, Martin O'Neill, Fabio Capello, Ottmar Hitzfeld – all ruled themselves out of contention.

The uncertainty over Ferguson's successor is also believed to have been a key reason for David Beckham's failure to agree a new contract. With Ferguson – the most influential figure in Beckham's career – staying on, United can be confident of persuading their most valuable asset to sign.

United may be in full flight again, but the title race remains wide open – thanks largely to the head start given to Arsenal, Liverpool and surprise challengers Newcastle by United's defensive wobbles.

Liverpool were in danger of slipping out of contention after a poor Christmas period, but bounced back with that win at Old Trafford and then trounced Leeds 4-0 at Elland Road.

That result was the latest setback for David O'Leary's Leeds, on whom injuries and suspensions have started to take their toll. They also lost to Newcastle and Chelsea, and are in danger of slipping out of the reckoning.

By contrast, Newcastle are bubbling, though manager Bobby Robson continues to talk down their chances. The signing of highly-rated teenager Jermaine Jenas for £5million from Nottingham Forest is further proof of Robson's determination to bring young players through.

With the return from injury of Alan Shearer, coupled with the summer acquisitions of the lightning-fast Craig Bellamy and Laurent Robert, Robson has built a Newcastle side that plays fast, attractive football within a tight defensive framework.

Comparisons are already being made with Kevin Keegan's time on Tyneside – all the more relevant with Keegan's return to St James' Park with his Manchester City side in the fifth round of the FA Cup.

Robson is determined to keep Geordie feet on the ground. "Winning is first and excitement comes second," he says. But if his squad can stay injury-free between now and May, anything is possible.

Calling the tune again...Ferguson's passion for the game has never died

Heads I lose...Jamie Carragher is sent off

However, the closest and most intriguing title race in years threatens to be overshadowed by growing indiscipline and crowd violence. Matters came to a head at Highbury when Arsenal played Liverpool in the fourth round of the FA Cup. Arsenal ran out 1-0 winners but not before three players had been sent off, two from Arsenal, Martin Keown and Dennis Bergkamp, and Liverpool's Jamie Carragher, who reacted to a coin thrown from the crowd by tossing it back into the stand.

The reaction of some of the tabloid press has been typically hysterical – 'Football on the brink of anarchy,' screamed one headline in the *Daily Mail* – but it sparked a healthy debate about falling standards in the English game.

While the spate of missile-throwing (everything from coins to half-eaten meat pies) marks a disturbing return for a Seventies dinosaur, the fact remains that much of the current hysteria has been generated by the wall-to-wall TV coverage of matches. With more cameras at more games than ever before, more unsavoury incidents are being picked up – and

coin-throwing escapade at Highbury

then debated at length. Matters have not been helped by the time the FA takes to review video evidence, which has led to discipline being meted out to players and managers months after their original offences.

Leeds' Lee Bowyer and Danny Mills were banned for six and two games respectively for offences dating back to last season.

Another to suffer from backdated discipline was John Gregory, who quit as manager of Aston Villa, only to emerge days later in charge of struggling Derby. Gregory received a three-match touchline ban for abusing a linesman during Villa's Boxing Day defeat by Liverpool, despite arguing that as Derby's new manager, he should not have been punished for offences committed at his old club.

Gregory's sudden decision to quit Villa took many by surprise, though he had a difficult relationship with chairman Doug Ellis. In another surprise move, Ellis then plumped for one of his former managers, the ex-England boss Graham Taylor, who retired from management last season.

Managerial U-turns, it seems, are back in fashion.

SCOTLAND

Vogts on the threshold

THE news that Berti Vogts was poised to become Scotland's national team coach came shortly before the draw for the qualifying stages of Euro 2004, in which the Scots have been grouped with Vogts' homeland, Germany.

Vogts has not yet confirmed his acceptance of the position, as he remains under contract with the Kuwaiti national side. But it is 99 per cent certain that the man who played in West Germany's 1974 World Cup-winning side and who coached his reunited country to triumph at Euro 96 will be the successor to Craig Brown. If so, he would become the first non-Scot to manage the national team.

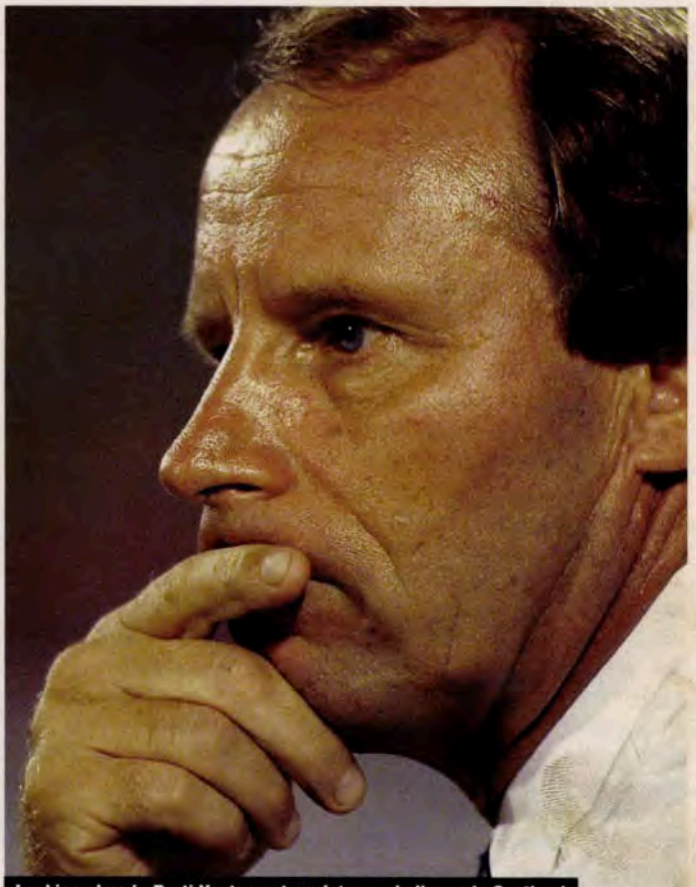
Assuming the Germans stamp their acknowledged authority on the European Championship group, Scotland will, realistically, be aiming for the runners-up spot in the hope that they can qualify for the finals via the play-off route.

Yet their other opponents are far from walkovers. Iceland are a much-improved side from the one Scotland defeated home and away in the 1986 World Cup qualifiers, while Lithuania have proved in the recent past that they can be difficult to beat. The Faroe Islands, meanwhile, became one in a long line of supposed 'minnows' to have embarrassed the Scots when they achieved a 1-1 draw in 1999, a result that contributed to Scotland's failure to qualify for Euro 2000.

On the domestic front, Rangers' director of football, Dick Advocaat, has agreed to coach Holland's national side on a part-time basis while continuing his work at Ibrox.

Meanwhile, Celtic's championship charge shows no signs of faltering – after 27 rounds they had a 13-point lead over closest challengers Rangers – and it is only a matter of time before they wrap up the League title for a second successive season.

Alan Fairley



Looking ahead...Berti Vogts contemplates a challenge in Scotland

WALES

Pack close to TNS

TOTAL NETWORK SOLUTIONS went into February as League leaders, although with six other teams within five points of them, it is one of the most open title races in years.

Champions Barry Town were back up to second, though they are far from invincible, as proved by their 3-0 defeat at home by Caersws.

Barry also lost out in the League Cup, going down 2-1 to Cwmbran, which means they will not feature in the Final for the first time in six seasons.

Cwmbran celebrated returning to their newly-refurbished stadium after a year of ground-sharing by crushing struggling Llanelli 6-1.

Mel Thomas

N IRELAND

Title race opens up

GLENTORAN'S up and down form has continued over the past month, with the result that the title race is wide open.

Portadown, boosted by the return from injury of midfielder Richard Clarke, drew level with the leaders after beating them 1-0 at home in January. Meanwhile, manager Ronnie McFall has persuaded Under-21 international Graham Hamilton to sign for the rest of the season.

Champions Linfield lay three points behind after winning their first three games of the new year, despite the loss of injured central defender William Murphy.

Crusaders, meanwhile, won three matches in a row to leapfrog Ards at the bottom of the table

Roy Kitson

Part-time Advocaat takes the helm

The long search for a new national coach is over, writes Klaas-Jan Droppert

HOLLAND

THE three-month search for a new national coach finally ended with the appointment of Dick Advocaat, for his second spell in charge, with former Feyenoord boss Willem Van Hanegem as his assistant.

However, neither will work with the Holland team on a full-time basis. Advocaat had only recently signed a contract as Rangers' director of football, and the Scottish club's chairman, David Murray, had no intention of letting him go.

In the end a solution was found by allowing Advocaat to perform the national team job on a part-time basis. Van Hanegem, meanwhile, will combine his new position with his role as a TV pundit.

The lengthy wait for the naming of Louis Van Gaal's successor was caused because a number of leading candidates – including Ronald Koeman, Johan Neeskens, Guus Hiddink, Johan Cruyff and Frank Rijkaard – were sounded out but found to be unavailable or not interested.

With another prospect, Ruud Gullit, deemed unsuitable by the Dutch FA, Advocaat was the only serious candidate left.

The appointment of Van Hanegem suggests that the FA has listened to the national team players' main criticism on Van Gaal's approach. Several squad members complained that the former coach was too much of a disciplinarian. By contrast, Van Hanegem is renowned for his relaxed approach.

On the domestic front, championship challengers PSV and Feyenoord have both been experiencing off-the-field problems.

A poll among players at PSV revealed that eight of the squad had lost faith in coach Eric Gerets, whom they accused of being a poor communicator. However, during a training camp in Spain, chairman Harry Van Raaij calmed the waters and surprisingly offered the former Belgium defender a contract extension to stay in Eindhoven after the end of this season.

Meanwhile, Gerets' Feyenoord counterpart, Bert Van Marwijk, clashed with the club's biggest talent, Leonardo Santiago, after the Brazilian arrived back late from the Christmas break. The row makes Leonardo's future at the club even more uncertain. He has already expressed his unhappiness with his role as a substitute.

Doubling up...Advocaat will continue at Rangers

In the goals...Mpenza

BELGIUM

Mpenza back with a bang

THE season resumed after the festive break with a flood of goals, four of them from Mbo Mpenza, making a dramatic return to the club where he first made his name.

Mouscron regained the forward's services from Galatasaray and though unable to grant him an immediate starting spot, were quick to benefit in both domestic competitions.

Coming off the bench, Mpenza scored twice in extra time to give Mouscron a 5-2 victory over Genk in the Cup quarter-finals. It was the same story in the League, where, with the help of another brace from Mpenza, Mouscron trounced Eendracht Aalst 6-1.

Poor Aalst. That crushing defeat came the day after they had been told by the federation that they would have to live with a 5-0 defeat awarded against them after they fielded two ineligible players during the opening match of the season, against Mouscron. Aalst had won it 1-0 and appealed against the federation's original decision to give the victory to their opponents.

Beveren, stranded at the foot of the table after a 6-1 home thrashing by Genk, appear to have no chance of avoiding the drop.

Standard Liege, 6-0 conquerors of Charleroi, kept the pressure on Club Brugge, 4-1 winners at Westerlo. However, while Brugge then won 4-0 away to Beveren to go joint top with Genk, Standard stumbled to a 2-1 defeat at RWDM.

Jean Dockx, Anderlecht's popular former player and coach, has died of a heart attack at 60. Dockx, capped 35 times by Belgium, was a left-back or midfielder who helped Anderlecht to their Cup-winners Cup triumphs in 1976 and 1978. Twenty years later, when he was assistant manager at Parc Astrid, Dockx excelled after stepping into the vacancy created by the departure of Arie Haan. He eventually gave way to Aime Anthuenis but had recently been appointed the club's chief scout.

Nicholas Harling

PORTUGAL

Council in dark over Stadium of Light money

BENFICA have been rocked by a statement from new Lisbon city mayor Dr Santana Lopes that he could not confirm whether it would hand the club the large subsidies promised by previous mayor Dr Joao Soares towards the building of the new Stadium of Light.

Benfica started the work a couple of months ago and also began dismantling one end of the old stadium. However, they had done so only on the assumption that they would receive £25million from the city council.

Lopes has said he cannot find any documentation showing a commitment to give the club money.

Any delay in the construction work on the new stadium as the result of a financial shortfall could endanger its role as a Euro 2004 venue.

FC Porto sacked coach Octavio Machado after their 2-0 defeat at Boavista dropped them to fifth in the table. The club immediately turned to Jose Mourinho, 39-year-old coach of unheralded Uniao Leiria, whom he has led to third place. Mourinho is no stranger to Porto, having been assistant to Bobby Robson for two years during the 1990s.

Former Boavista and Salgueiros boss Mario Reis replaced Mourinho at Uniao Leiria, his second spell in charge. Meanwhile, Jorge Jesus has resigned at Vitoria Setubal with the club hovering around the relegation zone.

Alberto da Silva

SWITZERLAND

Door shuts on Servette

SERVETTE have lost their appeal to be reinstated in the Swiss Cup following their expulsion by the FA. The appeals commissioner backed the disciplinary committee's decision to throw out the Cup holders for fielding a suspended player during their fifth round tie in this season's competition.

The Geneva club consoled themselves by signing international midfielder Massimo Lombardo from Lausanne.

Lucerne, under threat of banishment to the fifth minor league, the lowest in Switzerland, because of severe financial problems, have said they can offer the necessary guarantees to allow them to contest the promotion/relegation play-offs.

However, the swingeing pay-cuts instituted in order to help reduce the £2million-plus debts have led to a players' rush for free transfers. Among them is Venezuela midfielder Gabriel Urdaneta, who has moved to German Second Division side Mannheim.

Hans-Peter Zaugg's reign at Grasshopper came to a dramatic end when he was replaced by St Gallen's Marcel Koller five months ahead of his expected departure date. It had been announced that Zaugg would leave in June, when his contract runs out.

Gerard Castella, who guided Servette to the League title in 1999, has replaced Koller at St Gallen.

Grasshopper striker Stephane Chapuisat and Liverpool defender Stephane Henchoz have agreed to make themselves available again for selection for Switzerland following talks with national coach Kobi Kuhn. The duo had vowed never to play for their country again after being named only as substitutes for two World Cup qualifiers last year.

Ivar von Rulach

REP OF IRELAND

Saints get their points back

ST PATRICK'S ATHLETIC have regained the nine points they were deducted earlier in the season for playing an unregistered player, Paul Marney, in their first three League games. The reinstatement came after a ruling from arbitrator Liam Reidy.

However, the affair is set to rumble on as Shelbourne, St Pat's opponents in the second round of matches, say they may appeal to UEFA or FIFA.

The return of the nine points put Saints top of the table temporarily, but a week later Shelbourne beat them in what was something of a grudge match to regain the lead.

Servette new boy...Lombardo

Martin Lawlor is the new manager of Longford Town, replacing Stephen Kenny, now in charge of Bohemians.

Sean Creedon

LIECHTENSTEIN

Loose sewn up until 2004

NATIONAL coach Ralf Loose will oversee the country's European Championship campaign after having his contract extended until June 2004.

Vaduz have signed 36-year-old former Germany forward Karl-Heinz Riedle, released by Fulham last summer. He joined the Cup-holders as they lay one step away from another Final after beating Schaan Azzurri 14-2 away to reach the last four.

Graeme Crawford

Pro-file Oscar Moens

AZ's in-form keeper back in the frame for Holland

AZ Alkmaar keeper Oscar Moens must have been delighted to hear that ex- Holland midfielder Wim Van Hanegem had been appointed assistant to new Dutch national coach Dick Advocaat.

Van Hanegem never stopped raving about Moens' ability during his time in charge of AZ in the late 1990s, and the keeper will surely have an influential man in his corner when the composition of the 'Oranje' squad is discussed.

Not that Moens' international future is dependent on friends in high places. It was only thanks to his outstanding form this season for AZ that ex-Holland coach Louis Van Gaal called him up for the November friendly with Denmark. And the 28-year-old, who had made his only other appearance in 1998, against Ghana, very much looked the part.

Of course, Fulham's Edwin Van der Sar remains Holland's number one keeper. But Moens has done a good job of lobbying for the back-up spot, and there is every chance he will make it his own.

"I feel even better about playing for Holland than I did the first time," said Moens. "I see my return to the national side as a reward for a good spell of form and as a great victory for me."

The keeper has come a long way since the trials and tribulations that put his career in jeopardy some 18 months ago. In dispute with AZ chairman Dirk Scheringa over his image rights, Moens unwisely decided to call in sick at the start of last season and was promptly suspended from the first team.

However, at the start of 2001 top-flight strugglers RBC Roosendaal took him on loan and almost six months of inactivity were at an end.

Often criticised for his casual attitude and for overdoing the nocturnal antics, Moens this time dug deep to fight back. Although RBC were eventually relegated, the keeper's valiant and assured performances in a lost cause convinced AZ to give him another chance this season, when he has continued to impress with his reflexes, athleticism and authority.

Over the years, Moens has been linked with Manchester United, Rangers, Barcelona, Lazio, Fiorentina, Roma and Napoli, only for their interest to fade away. It should be a different story now that a new and improved Moens has emerged.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club AZ Alkmaar
Country Holland
Born April 1, 1973, in 's-Gravenzande
Previous clubs MSV'71, SVV Schiedam, Ajax, Excelsior Rotterdam, Go Ahead Eagles, AZ Alkmaar, RBC Roosendaal
International debut October 1998, v Ghana
International caps 2
Honours Dutch League 1998 (Ajax)

HJK keep it in the family

Pentti Hietanen on the prospect of a remarkable dad-and-lad partnership

FINLAND

HJK HELSINKI are likely to field a father and son midfield partnership next season after signing Russian Alexei Jeremenko junior from relegated city rivals FC Jokerit.

His father, 38-year-old Alexei senior, also a midfielder, already plays for HJK.

The younger Jeremenko previously had a trial at Aston Villa, but the Premiership side backed out of any permanent deal because of potential work permit problems.

FC MyPa's international defender Jussi Nuorela has joined Malmo of Sweden.

Liverpool's Sami Hyypia has been named Finland's Sportsman of the Year for 2001, becoming only the second footballer, after Jari Litmanen in 1995, to win the award.

Son and flair...Alexei Jeremenko has joined his father's club, HJK

DENMARK

Exodus as usual

THE routine winter exodus of young Danish talent was headed this time by defender Niclas Jensen, who joined English First Division leaders Manchester City from FC Copenhagen for £1million.

Opportunity knocks...Niclas Jensen

It was opportune timing for the 24-year-old full-back, further boosting his chances of a World Cup starting place since Denmark's regular left-back, Jan Heintze, is in the midst of a six-week injury lay-off.

Another player on the move was Herfolge striker Denni Conteh, who signed a two-year deal with Sparta Rotterdam.

Former Denmark defender Jacob Laursen, once at Derby County, has negotiated a return to England with Leicester City.

National coach Morten Olsen has abandoned plans for a friendly against neighbours Norway after the teams were drawn in the same Euro 2004 qualifying group.

The game, scheduled for August 21, was intended to celebrate the centenary of the Norwegian FA. However, Olsen pulled out, saying: "We are not that friendly."

Speculation about who might replace Michael Laudrup as Olsen's assistant continues. But Frank Arnesen appears to be out of the running after deciding to re-join the PSV Eindhoven management team.

Jim Holden

NORWAY

Berg Hestad stars in Portugal

MOLDE midfielder Daniel Berg Hestad was named as Norway's top player by coach Nils Johan Semb after a tournament in Portugal against the B sides of the host country and Romania.

"Daniel was excellent. He had a good working capacity, was strong in the air and won a lot of duels," said Semb, who had selected a squad largely comprising home-based players.

Sigurd Rushfeldt was another star of the show, scoring a fantastic 35-yard goal to give Norway the lead in their opening match against Portugal, which they lost on penalties after a 1-1 draw. Rosenborg keeper Espen Johnsen also impressed, making a number of acrobatic saves.

The second match, against Romania, also finished in a draw, 2-2, but this time Norway won on penalties. Brann forward Thorstein Helstad put them ahead after just 30 seconds, but the Romanians then scored twice before Christer Basma salvaged a last-gasp equaliser from a penalty.

Pre-season spending on players was only a tenth of the sum paid out before the 2000 season. Bodo/Glimt's purchase of Runar Berg from Venezia has been the biggest buy, but even that only went ahead after Trond Fredrik Ludvigsen moved to Hertha Berlin.

Sigurd Odegaard

SWEDEN

Jury out on Hammarby

CHAMPIONS Hammarby have yet to convince pundits that they are capable of retaining their title. They have still not found a replacement for goalkeeper Lasse Eriksson, now retired, while there are persistent transfer rumours surrounding leading forward Andreas Hermansson.

Yet new coach Anders Linderoth is upbeat about how his team will play.

"We intend to introduce a more mobile, more aggressive Hammarby," he says. "But I can promise the fans that we won't be over-reliant on hitting long balls, even though that is also a viable way of achieving results."

AIK, title favourites along with Djurgardens, have underlined their aspirations by issuing a stern hands-off warning to foreign clubs who have been eyeing their international right-back, Karl Corneliusson.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Atli learns from Gulf tour

A TWO-MATCH tour of the Middle East in early January provided national coach Atli Edvaldsson with a rare opportunity to take a close look at several of his fringe players.

The team managed a creditable 0-0 draw with Kuwait in Muscat, Oman, before losing 1-0 to Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.

The games also allowed Edvaldsson to call on the services of his newly-appointed assistant, Gudni Kjartansson, who was at the national team helm from 1980-81, and again briefly in 1989. Kjartansson will also take charge of Iceland's Under-19s.

Back home, Fram claimed the first silverware of the new year, thrashing Reykjavik rivals KR 4-0 in the Final of the national indoor championship.

Rab Christie

Dallas Cup® XXIII offers world class competition at all levels. Many of the world's premier clubs compete in the Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Super Cup® Intercontinental Youth Club Championship and other Dallas Cup® age groups.

Past participants have included Real Madrid, Spain; Ajax AFC, Netherlands; Boca Juniors, Argentina; AC Milan, Italy; Manchester United, England; Bayer Leverkusen, Germany; SC Corinthians, Brazil; Tottenham Hotspur, England; UNAM Pumas, Mexico; Nacional, Uruguay; Moscow Dynamo, Russia; Celtic, Scotland; Club America, Mexico; Universidad Catolica, Chile; River Plate, Argentina; FF Malmo, Sweden; Vasco da Gama, Brazil; CF Monterrey, Mexico; Deportivo Cali, Colombia; CD Guadalajara, Mexico; Santos FC, Brazil; Dynamo Kiev, Ukraine; Jomo Cosmos, South Africa; Lyngby FC, Denmark; West Ham United, England; Sao Paulo FC, Brazil; Sporting Cristal, Peru; Everton FC, England and many more.

Look for the Dallas Cup on the World Wide Web at

www.dallascup.com

DALLAS CUP® XXIII

Presented by

FILA

Featuring the

HICKS, MUSE, TATE & FURST
INCORPORATED

Super Cup®
Intercontinental Youth Club Championship

Feature Sponsors

Dallas! Convention & Visitors Bureau

PSN
Pasión por el Deporte

WORLD SOCCER

Official Sponsors

Baylor SportsCare
Carlson Wagonlit
Dallas Burn
The Dallas Morning News
Dallas Sidekicks
El Sol de Texas
Goal Magazine
KRVA 1600 AM
KUVN Channel 23
Lite Rock 103.7 KVIL
North Texas Soccer
Official Sports International
Plano Sports Center
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP
Radio Disney AM620
Strasburger & Price, LLP
Town of Addison

Host Club - Texas Longhorns SC

Gunes slams 'terrorists' slur

Tensions have already emerged ahead of the clashes with England, writes Hasan Cemali

TURKEY

NATIONAL team coach Senol Gunes has accused an English newspaper of inciting trouble ahead of the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign by suggesting he called his own supporters "terrorists".

Turkey and England were drawn to meet in Group 7 and are the favourites to fill the top two places, but the press focus has been on previous problems between fans from the two countries. Two Leeds supporters were fatally stabbed before their side's UEFA Cup semi-final clash against Galatasaray in Istanbul in 2000. Then there were running clashes between Gala and Arsenal fans ahead of the same tournament's Final, in Copenhagen.

"I was shocked by the *Mirror's* 'Terrorists' line," Gunes raged. "What I said was: 'Football brings together rich and poor. People come and see it to forget their problems. It is just a game to have fun. Those people who cause problems, you cannot see them as normal people. These people are terrorists.' That is what I said. But what they have written is absolutely different. How can anybody say about their own people that they are terrorists? If my own fans are terrorists, am I the terrorist leader? I cannot accept this."

In the League, Trabzonspor face sanctions from the federation after their home game against Besiktas was abandoned because of crowd trouble. Angry Trabzon fans attempted to invade the pitch, lit fires and threw torn-up seating after Besiktas defender Dmitri Khlestov put his side 5-0 ahead with seven minutes left.

The result, which will probably be allowed to stand, kept Besiktas in touch with leaders Galatasaray, but Fenerbahce have continued to slide even after the appointment of new coach Werner Lorant. The German, who succeeded Mustafa Denizli during the winter break, lost two of his first three League games.

Hopping mad...Gunes believes a newspaper is inciting conflict

ISRAEL

Levy critical after collapse

MEDICAL teams struggled desperately to keep Maccabi Tel Aviv defender Meni Levy alive after he collapsed during a televised League game against Beitar Jerusalem.

The game was abandoned and Levy taken to hospital where he remained unconscious in a critical state as we went to press.

National coach Richard Moller Nielsen has been handed a new two-year contract, with his current deal due to expire in June.

Hapoel Haifa are on the verge of financial collapse following the suicide in December of the club's former boss Robbie Shapira, whose business interests in Nigeria reportedly ran into serious problems. The Israeli FA is acting as a trustee for the club and looking for an investor.

Ori Lewis

YUGOSLAVIA

Lack of exports highlights decline

THE poor state of the domestic game was exemplified by the fact that there were no notable player moves to Europe's top leagues this winter.

The reaction to the Euro 2004 draw also reflected the country's declining fortunes. A few years ago, a group comprising Italy, Finland, Wales and Azerbaijan would not have been considered too difficult; now there is more reason for concern.

Belgrade side Rad will go into the spring campaign with a new coach following the appointment of Zvonko Varga. The former OFK Belgrade boss succeeds Ceda Djoincevic.

● Former Yugoslavian international Toma Kaloperovic died from a heart attack in a Belgrade TV studio at the age of 70. During the 1950s and 60s, he played for BSK and Partizan Belgrade, won six caps, and was one of the first Yugoslav players to sign for foreign clubs – he had spells with Padova, Wiener Sportklub and NAC Breda. Later, as a coach, he guided Partizan to the League title in 1976,

Germany bound...Angelos Haristeas

GREECE

Unpaid players humble top sides

ARIS and PAOK players are having problems in collecting their wages, but the Salonika sides' salary shortfall has not affected their form on the pitch.

Aris humbled the highly-paid players of champions Olympiakos, beating them 1-0 in Athens, and bringing to an end their astonishing four and a half year unbeaten home League run.

PAOK inflicted AEK's third consecutive 3-2 defeat, in Salonika, to put themselves within two points of the early-season leaders, who dropped to second place. It is 19 years since AEK last lost three straight League games.

Ironically Portuguese coach Fernando Manuel Costa Santos has just been persuaded to stay on. The 47-year-old handed in his resignation, angered that AEK bought three players without consulting him. But he withdrew it after 200 fans visited his home to plead with him to continue.

As Aris players lobbied for wages due, the club announced the sale of top scorer Angelos Haristeas to Werder Bremen. The Greece forward will move in the summer.

Lou Economopoulos

and also worked with leading Turkish clubs Galatasaray and Fenerbahce.

Vladimir Novak

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Blaz takes the helm

THE search for a national team coach is finally over after former assistant Blaz Sliskovic was handed the post.

Sliskovic, 42, a former Yugoslav international who also played for Velez Mostar, Hajduk Split, Marseille and Pescara, was right-hand man to coach Drago Smajlovic for two years up until the latter's dismissal for failing to guide Bosnia to this summer's World Cup.

Sliskovic landed the job after the federation gave up its pursuit of Miroslav Blazevic, recently national coach of Iran. Blazevic, the former Croatia boss, had at one point publicly confirmed he would take charge but changed his mind overnight.

On the League front, a truly unified national set-up is now finally within reach after it was agreed that clubs from the country's Serbian League will join the already unified Muslim-Croat national division from next summer.

Zdravko Reic

Home again...Amir Karic

SLOVENIA

Duo return to Maribor

NATIONAL coach Srecko Katanec has two more home-based players to choose from after Ermin Rakovic and Amir Karic returned to their former club, champions Maribor, from spells in Israel and England respectively.

Karic, who has been at Ipswich since the start of the 2000-01 season, made the reason for his return quite explicit. "I played only three times in 16 months for Ipswich and I was afraid of losing my position in the national team," he said. "No amount of money would persuade me to sacrifice my place at the World Cup."

Zdravko Reic

● In **CROATIA**, Marsonia have reappointed coach Milo Nizetic, who was in charge for the first seven League games of the season before being replaced by Miroslav Buljan. The latter recently stepped down with the club 11th in the 16-team top division.

MACEDONIA

Still no win for national team

THE national team's win drought has now lasted 15 months following two draws and two defeats in the Middle East. Macedonia lost a friendly against Oman 2-0 in Muscat, then in the subsequent four-nation tournament in Bahrain, drew 0-0 with Albania and 1-1 with the hosts, before losing 3-0 to winners Finland.

The tournament was national coach Gjore Jovanovski's swansong, having previously announced his resignation.

Midfielder Toni Micevski, Macedonia's most-capped international, has returned from Energie Cottbus in Germany to sign for Pobeda Prilep.

Michel Stojmanovski

MALTA

Sliema lose their grip

SLIEMA WANDERERS were knocked off the top of the table after drawing at home to Birkirkara in the second game after the Christmas break then losing 2-1 to defending champions Valletta, again on their own ground.

Birkirkara followed up with a 3-0 win over Marsa and a 6-1 hammering of Naxxar to take over at the top.

Valletta's winner at Sliema came from Gilbert Agius, back at the club after failing to gain a first-team place at Italian Serie C side Pisa.

Domenico Aquilina

Pro-file Giorgios Karagounis

Midfielder working his magic for Panathinaikos and Greece

THE clock is ticking on the Panathinaikos career of midfield wizard Giorgios Karagounis.

It is safe to assume the 24-year-old international will soon become the latest high-profile Greek export. After all, it was a major shock when an expected transfer to Italy failed to materialise last summer. Serie A clubs Udinese and Bologna were both vying for his services, but ultimately negotiations reached a mysterious dead end.

Some claimed Karagounis pulled the plug because he felt Panathinaikos were pressurising him to sign for Udinese – who were prepared to pay £3.5million – while he preferred to go to Bologna, whose bid was lower but who were offering him better terms.

Whatever the reasons, prospective buyers will be much more persistent in the coming months. Karagounis has been top of the bill for Panathinaikos in the Champions League, while his reputation was greatly enhanced by his performance in Greece's 2-2 World Cup qualifying draw with England last October. "Giorgios was a big problem for England all afternoon," said Greece coach Otto Rehhagel. "He was very busy, excellent in his passing and movement off the ball, and the ideal springboard for our counter-attacks."

Karagounis, captain of the Greek Under-21 side that finished runners-up in the 1998 European Championship, obviously relishes a big game. Both this term and last, he has saved some of his best performances for the Champions League, occupying centre-stage as Panathinaikos twice defied the odds to qualify for the second phase.

Juventus and Manchester United will need no reminding of how he rose to the occasion against them in 2000-01, and he has again excelled in Europe this season. He proved the match winner when heading the only goal against Arsenal in Athens in September.

His recent domestic League form has not been of the same high standard, though, and he has not always enjoyed the best of fortunes at Panathinaikos. After arriving from Apollon in summer 1998, Karagounis initially could get no further than the bench. But injury to German schemer Karl-Heinz Pflipsen during the 1999-00 season gave him his chance. Such was his exceptional form that critics were soon comparing him to Mimis Domazos, the former Panathinaikos midfield general who skippered the club to the 1971 Champions Cup Final – a 2-0 defeat by Ajax.

Karagounis deserves to be found in such exalted company.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Panathinaikos
Country Greece
Born March 6, 1977, in Athens
Previous club Apollon
International debut August 1999, v El Salvador
International debut 14 (1 goal)

Kingmakers name Krankl

Nick Bidwell on the appointment of Austria's legendary goalscorer as national coach

AUSTRIA

WHITE smoke finally billowed out of the chimney of the Austrian federation. Following the sacking of Otto Baric late last year, the kingmakers plumped for ex-Rapid Wien, Barcelona and Austria goalscoring legend Hans Krankl to take over as the new coach of the national team.

Although the favourite for the post had been Roy Hodgson, the former Switzerland, Internazionale and Blackburn boss who had just been fired by Serie A club Udinese, the selection panel ultimately thought it best to choose an Austrian. Thus, the job was handed to 49-year-old Krankl, the country's highest scorer at international level with 34 goals in 69 appearances.

"Krankl is special, he's star quality," declared federation president Beppo Mauhart.

Formerly in charge at Wiener Sportclub, Rapid Wien, FC Tirol, Salzburg, Fortuna Koln and Admira Wacker (three spells), the ex-international forward has not enjoyed the same success as a coach that he had as a player. He quit Admira last December with the club rock bottom of the country's top flight.

Nevertheless, Krankl remains an immensely popular figure and few dissenting voices have been heard about his appointment. All 10 Austrian Bundesliga clubs had been promoting Krankl's candidature, with national team skipper Andy Herzog also enthusiastic in his backing for the new boss.

"I'm very optimistic now that Krankl has come in," said Herzog, who recently rejoined Rapid Wien after a spell in Germany with Werder Bremen. "He will motivate and instil patriotism in the squad."

New position...Hans Krankl

RUSSIA

Spartak introduce home-grown promise

MOSCOW SPARTAK lost a tough battle with Kyiv Dynamo but impressed fans and critics alike by introducing a number of talented new young players during the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) Cup.

A free-spirited Spartak side lost 4-3 to the Ukrainian champions in the Final of the 10th annual Moscow indoor tournament – for the title-winners of all 15 former Soviet republics – staged at the 35,000-seat Olympic Arena.

For the first time in recent years, Spartak now boast home-bred players rather than Brazilian or East European imports. Strikers Alexander Danishevski, 17, and Dmitri Sychev, 18, as well as former Saint-Etienne midfielder Dmitri Kudryashev, 18, will surely be figures to watch when the new Russian League season gets under way on March 8.

Spartak and national team coach Oleg Romantsev even hinted that these players might make it into the World Cup squad, which badly needs young blood.

The CIS Cup became the second pre-season test of strength for Spartak after their victory in a tournament in Turkey, where they beat Galatasaray, Werder Bremen and Fenerbahce.

The Moscow tournament was played on the new artificial grass surface, a condition set by Dynamo, who lost one of their key players, Alexei Gerasimenko, with a bad injury on the carpet pitch used last year.

Spectators still nostalgic about the USSR League had another chance to see the likes of Latvian champions Skonto Riga, Torpedo Kutaisi of Georgia and Lithuania's FBK Kaunas. However, Kyiv Dynamo and Moscow Spartak, whose meeting in the Final was a sell-out, once again proved that they have no serious rivals for the trophy; Dynamo have now lifted it four times, to Spartak's six.

Victor Gusev

UKRAINE

Shakhtar bring in Scala

SHAKHTAR DONETSK ended a three-month search for a new coach when appointing former Parma, Borussia Dortmund and Besiktas boss Nevio Scala. The Italian, who succeeds Victor Prokopenko, has an 18-month contract.

"Shakhtar don't have a lot of stars, but they do have great enthusiasm," said Scala. "It was because of this that Parma managed to achieve things on the European stage. This is exactly the level I would like to reach in Donetsk."

Scala led Parma to Italian Cup, UEFA Cup, Cup-winners Cup and European Supercup triumphs having overseen their promotion to Serie A at the end of his first season in charge, 1989-90. But the 54-year-old will face a daunting task in trying to unseat the dominant Kyiv Dynamo.

Scala becomes only the second foreigner to lead a top division Ukrainian side, after German Bernd Stange, who coached Dnipro in the mid-1990s.

Oleg Zadernovsky

POLAND

Polonia suffering title curse

WINNING trophies appears to be a curse for Polish sides. LKS Lodz, the 1998 League champions, were relegated two years later and now have a fight on their hands to avoid the drop to the Third Division.

Polonia Warsaw, the 2000 champions and current Cup holders, are being forced to sell key players in order to pay players' bonuses and meet other costs.

Polonia hope Panathinaikos will buy international forward Emmanuel Olisadebe, who is on an 18-month loan. The Greeks have the option to sign Nigeria-born Olisadebe for £1.2million at the end of the season.

Polonia players have already warned that they will strike if their bonuses are not paid, a threat also made at other financially-troubled clubs Gornik Zabrze and GKS Katowice, and actually carried out at relegation-threatened Slask Wroclaw.

Dariusz Kurowski

SLOVAKIA

Kalvoda takes charge at leaders Zilina

CZECH coach Leos Kalvoda has been appointed by autumn champions MSK Zilina following the departure of Ladislav Jurkemik to take over the national side. The 43-year-old has a hard act to follow – Jurkemik not only led unheralded Zilina to the top of the League at the winter break, but also steered them into the Cup semi-finals.

Jozef Jarabinsky, who recently lost out to Karel Bruckner in the battle to become the Czech Republic's national team coach, has agreed to take the helm at Slovan Bratislava following

Jozef Prochotsky's dismissal. But Jarabinsky will be unable to move until the summer because his present club, Banik Ostrava, refuse to release him from his contract, which runs until June. Jan Svehlik will keep the seat warm for him.

Slovan, former giants of Slovakian football, have fallen on hard times and lay only seventh in the table at the winter break, 12 points off the top.

Roy Kitson

● In the **CZECH REPUBLIC**, Sparta Prague have lost Slovakian left-sided defender Vladimir Labant to West Ham and midfielder Petr Papousek to Banik Ostrava, *writes Roy Kitson*. Papousek will be joined by midfielder Radoslav Latal, brought in from Sigma Olomouc. Latal's international colleague, playmaker Pavel Horvath, looks certain to be a strong influence for Teplice. The 26-year-old was signed after an unhappy spell with Galatasaray.

Back home...Pavel Horvath

GEORGIA

Susak arrives to recharge Dinamo

CROAT Ivo Susak has been appointed head coach of Dinamo Tbilisi, the country's most successful team since independence. Susak, who succeeds Givi Nodia, was formerly boss of Croatia's national youth team as well as Osijek and Slovenian side Maribor.

Dinamo won the domestic championship every year during the 1990s but have become crippled by financial problems in recent seasons.

Forward Mikhail Khutsishvili has left the club for Kalamata of Greece, while 21-year-old Torpedo Kutaisi striker Georgi Imedadze has signed a four-year deal with Alaniya Vladikavkaz of Russia.

Oleg Zadernovsky

Round-up

ANGHEL IORDANESCU is back in charge of the **ROMANIAN** national team following the resignation of Gheorghe Hagi. The 51-year-old, who led the side to the quarter-finals at USA 94, agreed to pay compensation to his recent employers, United Arab Emirates club Al Ain, in order to take up the position. Iordanescu, whose first spell at the Romania helm was from 1993-1998, has been given a contract until July 2004.

Kazbek Tuayev has been appointed national coach of **AZERBAIJAN** for the second time. The 61-year-old was previously in charge during the mid-1990s, overseeing the memorable France 98 qualifying victory over Switzerland. Tuayev, who will continue in his current role as Neftchi coach, succeeds Igor Ponomarev.

Former Soviet Union and Moscow Spartak midfielder Viktor Pasulko has been named national coach of **MOLDOVA**. The 41-year-old, who has experience coaching in the lower divisions of the German League, has a contract until 2006.

Ion Caras, one of Pasulko's predecessors in the Moldova post, has agreed to take over top division side FC Agro following the resignation of Serghei Carmanov.

Albert Sarkisyan has taken the reins at **ARMENIAN** club Dynamo-2000. The 39-year-old, who is also the national Under-18 team boss and previously coached First Division Dvin, succeeds Vaghinak Aslanyan.

Vladimir Kalinkovich, Miron Goihman & Michael Bowesfield

Missed part one of the WORLD SOCCER ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WORLD CUP 2002? Want more copies of part two?

You can order back copies from our website @ www.worldsoccer.com

STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME WORLD SOCCER

Going bust

In Argentina and Chile, most clubs are deep in debt and there is little sign of salvation. Eric Weil reports

Moved on...Bernardo Romeo (right) has left debt-ridden San Lorenzo for Hamburg

ARGENTINA are World Cup favourites, with a team almost entirely composed of players based at top European clubs, but the country's domestic soccer is in utter chaos with virtually all its clubs effectively bankrupt, despite the continual sales of players abroad.

Club officials have always said their teams can only keep going by selling players, but this is far from the truth. Statistics show that between 1975 and 2000, Argentina 'exported' 5,482 players for some £570million, yet their debts have steadily risen. The 20 top division clubs owe a total of £270m, mostly to players, coaches and in taxes.

The revenue from player sales may not seem so high because transfer values increased by leaps and bounds during those 25 years; actually £360m of the overall £570m figure was generated in the last five years of the period in question. At the same time, increasing revenue from sponsorship, advertising and TV rights was also boosting the coffers.

So where did the money go? Some clubs invested in refurbishing their stadiums and other infrastructure, but this accounted for only a small percentage of their income. Instead, it was bad and corrupt administration by the clubs' officials that proved a black hole for finances.

Part of the bad administration has been the tendency to spend more money than is coming in on constructing oversized squads, with many of the players handed contracts that would dwarf those offered by some of Europe's largest clubs.

Club officials, meanwhile, have been sure to receive their cut of revenue from any player sale when setting up deals with agents, who in turn have creamed off a significant percentage of money. In fact, a lot of players' contracts are owned in part or completely by club officials and agents, so that when the player is sold, only part of the money, or none at all, goes to the club.

Yet not all clubs are afflicted by this maladministration. Santa Fe club Colon have rarely sold players for large transfer fees, receive only a small share of TV revenue because they are a relatively modest provincial club, and have recently refurbished their stadium. But they owe no one a cent.

At the other end of the scale are two big Buenos Aires clubs, River Plate and San Lorenzo. River used to be known as 'Millonarios' because they paid the biggest transfer fees when professional soccer began here in 1932. Today, they are £31m in debt, a third of that sum owed to current and former players.

New club president Jose Maria Aguilar recently said: "To break even we have to sell players for at least $25m [£18m] a year."

San Lorenzo are in a worse mess. The previous administration have left the club with debts of £32m, despite having already received revenue from TV and advertising deals for up to two years in advance. Now, their entire team is up for sale, but the club will collect little of any transfer fee because they are obliged to use that sum to pay the departing player what they owe him in back salary.

A case in point was their recent £3.4m transfer of leading scorer Bernardo Romeo to Hamburg. Out of this, the player received £1.4m to cover unpaid wages, over £700,000 went to agents and in administration costs, and now the courts handling the ISL bankruptcy have put an embargo on the rest of the money because the collapsed marketing company had handed San Lorenzo £1.4m as an advance when it was about to take over the running of the club's professional soccer affairs.

"The club's situation is desperate," says San Lorenzo vice-president Rafael Savino. "There is no money coming in for the moment. We have almost 90 lawsuits against us and 30 requests for bankruptcy."

In most other countries, San Lorenzo would by now be declared bankrupt, but that is not the way things are done in a country where soccer is overwhelmingly popular.

As mentioned in previous issues, Racing Club topped the debt table with £43m owed and were declared bankrupt by their own president at the time, Daniel Lalin, the chief creditor.

But the courts delayed the club's closure for two and a half years for one reason or another until finally a saviour was found in the form of a private company, headed by lifelong Racing fan Fernando Marin. The club have just won the national title for the first time in 35 years.

Racing, in the hands of the courts and without a club committee, had no choice but to seek outside help. However, committee members at other clubs have been opposed to giving

away their power by bringing in an outside company, no matter that this could bring a vital cash injection.

There were narrow votes in favour of such a move at San Lorenzo and Quilmes, but ISL went bankrupt soon after agreement was reached with the former club, while the new investors at Quilmes put little money in, sold about a dozen players, and the agreement was terminated after a year.

Last May's players' strike over non-payment of some £35m in wages was resolved when it was agreed that, with the FA's help, they would receive all outstanding money by June 30.

Troubled times...Julio Grondona

However, only a part of the huge sum was forthcoming and by the end of the year players and coaches were again owed between two and four months' pay, plus bonuses still unpaid from before the strike.

In December, FA president Julio Grondona said: "Under current conditions no championship can begin next year." And that was before the political unrest that brought down the government, followed by financial chaos and devaluation of the peso.

The latter development has worsened the plight of many clubs. Some of their debts are in US dollars (now worth far more against the peso), as are most player contracts. The latter are not easy to renegotiate, especially with foreign coaches and players.

At the same time, shirt advertisers and TV companies want to lower their input since the devaluation has affected the whole economy.

With little money around, attendances are expected to fall even further, with a consequent cut in gate receipts. Grondona arranged an interview with the country's new president, Eduardo Duhalde, who has promised to reduce the cost of security at matches – clubs will now only pay police inside the stadium – and scrap VAT on match tickets.

However, in exchange for these concessions – and they are only relatively minor – the government has said it wants the legal right to inspect clubs' books, on the strength of which it will decide in June the clubs that are in a fit state to continue playing in the professional soccer leagues.

The irony of this last development is that the FA proposed the regular auditing of books a year ago, a move refused by the suspicious clubs; that club committee members would be responsible for losses during their term of office; that clubs must not have more than 25 professional players; and, in the case of non-compliance with these conditions, club officials would be fined and their teams relegated.

This was never properly carried out. The FA committee is composed of club presidents, who don't want to hurt each other. Now, however, the government's proposal is to make clubs accountable by law, a move that could revolutionise domestic soccer.

ALTHOUGH Chile's economic situation is said to be better than that of other South American countries, its soccer has the financial problems of its neighbours for many of the same reasons.

Local fans were shocked in January when Colo Colo, the country's most popular club and leading title winners, were declared bankrupt with debts of just over £21m. Players are owed three months' salary and a number of current and former squad members have filed lawsuits against the Santiago club for the payment of unpaid wages.

Universidad de Chile, another big Santiago club and the champions for three years running (1998-2000), owe their players and former players £2.1m.

According to the Chilean players' union, the average monthly salary of its 716 members is just £821. Four players earn over £11,500, but the majority between £50 and £600.

Iquique midfielder Hector Vega is one of the very lucky ones. Late last year he won £450,000 in the lottery, saying he would play for nothing for the rest of the season and then retire.

The financial problems affecting nearly all the clubs mean that players are having to be sold, especially those commanding high salaries. Some internationals at Colo Colo, such as goalkeeper Marcelo Ramirez and striker Sebastian Rozental, were looking for clubs with just a month to go before the start of the season.

It may not even begin for some teams. Chilean FA rules state that clubs owing players money cannot start the championship.

Meanwhile, several coaches have also been replaced by cheaper ones.

The government wants clubs to become private companies, seeing it as a solution to their financial plight; the FA and the 32 professional clubs reject this suggestion and resent government intervention.

Even so, one First Division club, Santiago Morning, have become a private company, while Second Division Everton of Valparaiso have effectively been taken over by businessman and soccer agent Pablo Tallarico. He has said he will give the impoverished club £5,500 a month and buy players; but he will also collect a big percentage when they are transferred.

However, clubs will not take just anybody's money. O'Higgins of Rancagua refused an offer from another businessman to pay off their debt of £285,000 provided they changed their name to Augusto Pinochet, the former military dictator responsible for the deaths of thousands of his countrymen.

Where's the exit?...Sebastian Rozental (left) and Marcelo Ramirez

Darkness falls on Sunshine State

The League's two Florida teams go to the wall as MLS is forced to cut back. Paul Gardner reports

USA

Last call...Valderrama of Mutiny in control against Fusion, their fellow Florida fallers

IT STARTED last autumn, when major league baseball, after decades of expansion, decided that enough was enough. The sport needed to get rid of at least a couple of its weaker clubs.

Now, if contraction made sense for the powerful sport of pro baseball, it surely made even more sense for financially struggling pro soccer.

The MLS honchos gathered for a December meeting near Denver. The talk of contraction was a decided irritation, a negative note when these guys had a significant, highly positive announcement to make – they were committed to funding and operating the League for the next five years.

But a response to the contraction rumours had to be made. So they announced: "MLS has decided to evaluate closely the viability of several teams and markets, based on their ability to provide value to the League and the sport overall for the long term."

Things were hardly clarified when investor and long-time soccer-booster Lamar Hunt admitted: "There may be contraction in the League. We may go with eight teams, or 10 teams, although 12 [the number for the past four years] is still an outside possibility."

Commissioner Don Garber also evidently felt he had to say something, but his assurance that the suspense would be resolved before the end of the year proved inaccurate. It wasn't until January 8 that Garber let the other shoe drop – and quite a clatter it made. Exit Miami Fusion and Tampa Bay Mutiny. MLS, with a stroke of the pen, had abandoned the Sunshine State of Florida.

This was not quite what had been expected. During the heady days of the North American Soccer League, in the 1970s, the two Florida clubs – Fort Lauderdale Strikers and Tampa Bay Rowdies – had been among the liveliest and best supported.

Certainly, Florida has changed a great deal since then, but one of the changes ought to have worked in favour of MLS – a sizeable increase in the soccer-playing Hispanic population.

The demise of Miami Fusion was particularly galling, as they had the best regular season record in 2001 and played the most attractive soccer. But owner Ken Horowitz was sick of losing money and wanted out.

As for Tampa, they never found an owner. They were owned and run by the League, a situation that, according to Alfonso Mondelo, one of their former coaches, caused a lack of loyalty and commitment from the players.

The reasoning behind the death of both clubs was no doubt financially impeccable, but it left a situation in which MLS was unmistakably saying soccer's future lay with clubs such as Kansas City Wizards, Colorado Rapids and Columbus Crew. In soccer terms, that makes no sense. Columbus is not and has never been a soccer town. Yet this is the sort of town MLS favours.

A similar sort of scenario is being played out in Dallas, where Burn are another League-run club. Plans are steaming ahead, however, to build a new stadium which would allow them to move out of the huge and antiquated Cotton Bowl and might entice Lamar Hunt to become the owner.

But there is a complication. The new stadium will not be in Dallas, but in McKinney, some 30 miles to the north. At the Cotton Bowl, the Burn crowds have always featured a high percentage of Hispanic fans. They are unlikely to travel all the way to McKinney, deep in white suburbia.

No one is suggesting this is easy for MLS. It has rightly identified the need for soccer stadiums, owned by their clubs. But building them is a very costly business, only feasible in places where land is cheap – like McKinney.

Aside from squeezing out the Hispanic fans, there is another problem with this arrangement. The white suburban fans tend to be those heavily involved in youth soccer – and these are the very ones who have never shown much interest in the pro game.

This swing to suburbia may not have been planned, but its associated marginalising of Hispanic fans must be viewed with alarm. There has always been a dominant European, particularly northern European, influence in US soccer, leading to a Europe-oriented style of play. And it has always failed to excite much interest. The promise MLS brought was of a more Latin-oriented, skilful game that would appeal not only to the growing hordes of Latino fans but also to the more traditional fan base. Sadly, the promise is fading.

Eight out of the 10 MLS coaches are non-Hispanics, and few of them show much empathy with the Latin game. In Los Angeles, where 90,000-plus crowds are routine for exhibition games featuring top Mexican teams, Galaxy are a solid, unspectacular side, coached by German Sigi Schmid. Their average crowd last year was 13,500. Only Kansas City's 11,900 was lower.

There can surely be no doubt in the mind of Phil Anschutz – now the most important of the MLS investors, who owns five of the 10 clubs – that Hispanic fans are vital to the sport's future in the USA. His dealings in obtaining television rights to the 2002 World Cup will have told him that.

The Spanish language rights for the USA were sold to Univision long ago but no one wanted the English version. So Anschutz saved the day by purchasing the rights and then striking a deal with ABC. The network gets a lot of free programming, and in return MLS gets its contract renewed for regular airing of its League games. A contract that in all probability would otherwise have been nixed by ABC.

CLUB COMPETITIONS

Better late than never for San Lorenzo

ARGENTINA'S San Lorenzo won their first international trophy when beating Flamengo of Brazil in the Final of the Mercosur Cup, being played for the fourth and last time in 2001.

By doing so, they also broke the stranglehold of Brazilian clubs in the made-for-TV competition – the previous winners were Palmeiras, Flamengo and Vasco da Gama, and those Finals had been all-Brazilian affairs.

Ironically, the Brazilian clubs' announcement that they would no longer take part in the competition (due to fixture congestion) was a major reason for its axing.

The 2001 tournament only finished in January. The first leg, a 0-0 draw in Rio de Janeiro, was played on December 12. However, the return in Buenos Aires, scheduled for the following week, had to be postponed because of political unrest in Argentina. When it was eventually played, on January 24, San Lorenzo won 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

San Lorenzo fans staged a pitch invasion during the shoot-out but order was restored after a five-minute delay and Diego Capra stepped up to score the decisive penalty.

Victory was sweet for the deeply endebted Argentinian side as it earned them £2.1million, enough to pay some of the wages owed to their players and Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini. He has committed himself to see out his contract, which expires in June, having earlier threatened to quit.

In the weeks between the two legs, Flamengo sold striker Edilson and midfielder Vampeta, while San Lorenzo's leading scorer, Bernardo Romeo, also departed.

● Prize money for the Libertadores Cup has been reduced from £29m to £21m because of a drop in TV revenue. The winners will take £2.39m, a third lower than last year's £3.64m.

Eric Weil

Vava, 1934-2002

VAVA, one of only three men to have scored in the Final of separate World Cups, has died of heart failure in his native Brazil. He was 67.

Considered one of his country's best centre-forwards, Vava scored 14 goals in his 20 appearances, including two against Sweden in the 1958 World Cup Final, a 5-2 win, and Brazil's third in the 3-1 Final victory over Czechoslovakia four years later. Only Pele (1958, 1970) and West Germany's Paul Breitner (1974, 1982) achieved the same feat.

Vava, full name Edvaldo Izidio Neto, began his career at Recife, moving to Vasco da Gama and winning two Rio de Janeiro state championships (1956, 1958). After a spell at Palmeiras he joined Atletico Madrid, eventually returning to his homeland and his final club, Botafogo. He retired in 1967.

Round-up

PERU coach Julio Cesar Uribe has been fired after failing to take the country to the World Cup finals. Uribe succeeded Francisco Maturana midway through the qualifying campaign but was unable to revive the team's fortunes. Peru finished eighth in the South American section, 11 points behind Uruguay, the lowest-placed qualifiers. Uribe has now taken over at Mexican side Tecos UAG, replacing Omar Sandoval.

Jorge Larrionda, the **URUGUAYAN** who has been chosen to officiate at the World Cup finals, was among 10 referees suspended for six months by the Uruguayan referees committee following an investigation into "possible irregularities in their functions".

Committee chairman Matias Vazquez said it was up to FIFA to decide whether Larrionda would officiate in Korea/Japan.

Armando Marques, head of the **BRAZILIAN** referees commission, has also been suspended, for allegedly tampering with a match report. Marques is accused of ordering fellow official Alfredo Loebeling, also suspended, to change the report of a Figueirense-Caxias game. Figueirense fans invaded the pitch with two minutes left and their side 1-0 ahead but the report was altered to say the invasion took place after the game had finished, thereby allowing the result to stand and ensuring Figueirense's promotion to the First Division.

Paying the price...Julio Cesar Uribe

In **MEXICO**, champions Pachuca made only one addition to their squad ahead of the Summer League, bringing in Venezuelan midfielder Juan Arango to replace Cesareo Victorino, now at Cruz Azul.

Necaxa are leaving Mexico City for the booming north-west industrial town of Aguascalientes in time for the 2003 Winter League. They have been unable to improve their average attendance of 2,500 in the capital. Meanwhile, the team from Irapuato, in central Mexico, have been renamed Veracruz and relocated to the east coast city of the same name.

Former Atlas coach Efrain Flores has taken over at struggling Leon following the resignation of Carlos Babbington.

Eric Weil & Carlos Ramirez

Major players...USA goalkeeper Kasey Keller and defender Frankie Hejduk hoist the Gold Cup

USA come good

Paul Gardner on how the Gold Cup hosts turned their fortunes around

THE USA's 2-0 victory over Costa Rica in the Gold Cup Final was hailed by coach Bruce Arena as a great boost for his side's World Cup prospects.

"It's the first time in my three years in charge that we really had a training camp, and it paid dividends," he said. "We deserve to be the champions. We showed we can attack and defend. If we can prepare for 35 days before Korea, we will put a good team on the field."

Such a triumphant attitude would have seemed most unlikely only 16 days earlier, after the USA sneaked a win with a last-minute goal in their opening game against guest team South Korea in Los Angeles. The hosts played poorly, while South Korea missed a penalty and played most of the second half with 10 men.

Things got no better in the USA's second game, a laboured 1-0 win over a mostly defensive Cuba.

Nevertheless, their two wins put them into the quarter-finals, where a first-half Brian McBride hat-trick put the game out of El Salvador's reach. Ante Razov added a fourth and the USA were beginning to show their strength.

The same could hardly be said of Mexico, who, despite warnings from the confederation organisers, deliberately sent a B team. After first-round wins over Guatemala and El Salvador, they found the non-stop running of the Koreans difficult to deal with. Neither team could score, and a shoot-out ensued.

The Mexicans, world champions at losing shoot-outs, duly hit two of their penalties straight at keeper Lee Woon-jae, and bowed out of the tournament.

Guus Hiddink, South Korea's Dutch coach, lost his cool towards the end of normal time and kicked a ball on to the pitch to stop play so that an injured Korean could be treated. He was sent off and banished to the stands, from where, a few days later, he saw his team lose 3-1 to Costa Rica in the semi-finals.

It had not been an easy tournament for the Dutchman, who lost four of his best players after the first round. Choi Yong-soo, Hwang Sun-hong and Yoo Sang-chul returned to their J.League clubs, while Lee Chun-soo was sidelined by injury.

Costa Rica topped their group, played in Miami, with a lucky win over Martinique (thanks to a flagrantly offside goal) and a 1-1 draw with Trinidad & Tobago.

The other Miami group produced a nightmare for the organisers, with all three teams – Canada, Haiti and Ecuador, the other guest side – winning one game each, all by 2-0. With records identical, a draw was held to decide which two would go through. Canada came out of the hat first, then Haiti. The suspicious Ecuadorans demanded the third ball be drawn out – sure enough, it read Ecuador.

Canada's luck (it started two years ago when they 'won' a coin-toss victory over South Korea on their way to the 2000 title) continued since they faced unfancied Martinique in the quarter-finals. However, the Caribbean side proved difficult to beat, despite having a man sent off after an hour. They held on for a 1-1 draw, but lost 6-5 on penalties.

The latter stages of the tournament were all played in Los Angeles. The United States dominated their semi-final against Canada, who defended well against the hosts and forced a 0-0 draw but lost the shoot-out 4-2. In the other encounter, Costa Rica comfortably took care of Korea, whose shooting was hopelessly inept.

Three days later, with FIFA president Sepp Blatter looking on, Canada beat Korea 2-1 in the third-place game.

Then the USA – without two of their more important players, Claudio Reyna and Earnie Stewart – took on Costa Rica, who had by then lost the services of top scorer Rolando Fonseca.

A coolly-taken breakaway goal by Josh Wolff gave the USA a 37th-minute lead, and veteran defender Jeff Agoos curled in a 25-yard free-kick in the second half. As well as boosting the USA's World Cup outlook, victory meant a £107,000 team bonus.

The tournament pulled in average attendances of 18,500, a figure that could be counted as satisfactory. However, the organisers were left to contemplate how much larger the crowds would have been in Los Angeles if Mexico had sent their full team.

Tarnished Gold: the Mexican view

THE arrogance of the national soccer authorities with regard to Football Confederation tournaments has once again tarnished the image of Mexican football.

The Gold Cup, the confederation's principal national team competition, is of major importance to the region, not least because it helps the development of the smaller footballing nations.

Yet, under pressure from Mexican club owners to keep their top players in action in the domestic League, national coach Javier Aguirre took only a reserve squad to contest this year's finals.

Aguirre attempted to deflect criticism of his selection by saying that he wanted to use the tournament to look at younger players who might yet make it into Mexico's World Cup squad. However, this did not square with the fact that a number of players in their thirties were also included.

The result of taking such an under-strength squad was that, after narrow victories over weak El Salvador and Guatemala sides, Mexico were eliminated in the quarter-finals by South Korea.

This was the third and by far the most disappointing defeat Aguirre has suffered during his 17 games in charge. Only midfielder Johan Rodriguez, defenders Francisco Gabriel de Anda and Jose Antonio Noriega emerged with any credit.

Carlos Ramirez

JAPAN

Alex in for bumper year

Turning Japanese...Alex

THIS could well prove to be Alex's year. The Shimizu S-Pulse midfielder played a starring role in his side's Emperor's Cup Final victory on New Year's Day, scoring the opening goal, and is now in the frame for a World Cup place.

The Brazil-born 24-year-old became a Japanese national at the end of 2001 and was included in national coach Philippe Troussier's first training camp of this year.

"The World Cup is my dream," says Alex, who came to Japan as a high school student and was J.League Player of the Year in 1999. "I'm thrilled even to think I might be able to stand on that pitch."

S-Pulse's Emperor's Cup victory means they will represent Japan in the Asian Cup-winners Cup for the fourth year in a row, though for the first time as domestic Cup winners. They qualified twice as runners-up (to Yokohama Flugels, who folded after the Final, and to Double winners Kashima Antlers), and once as Asian Cup-winners Cup holders.

Cerezo Osaka, defeated by S-Pulse in the Final, now have to contend with life in Division Two following their relegation. However, they must be confident of bouncing straight back having managed to retain most of their squad, including international midfielder Hiroaki Morishima.

They will also have the services of Japan striker Akinori Nishizawa, who has returned from an unsuccessful loan spell at Bolton in England.

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

GULF CUP

Saudis leave it late

SAUDI ARABIA won the Gulf Cup for only the second time thanks to three late goals in their final match against Qatar, their closest challengers.

Needing a win in the last game of the bitterly contested round-robin tournament, the Saudis went behind to a goal by Ahmed Khalifa after 25 minutes. But strikes from Abdullah Al-Jamaan, Saleh Mohammadi and Talal Al-Meshal in the last 12 minutes meant Nasser Al-Johar's side leapfrogged their opponents to top the standings by a point.

It was the Saudis' only success in the tournament since their first triumph, in 1994. The victory also secured Al-Johar's position as national coach ahead of the World Cup. Speculation had been rife before the competition began that the man who took the team to the 2000 Asian Cup Final and who qualified them for their third successive World Cup finals would make way for a more famous face.

The six-team tournament was a major disappointment for defending champions Kuwait. They managed just one win and learned midway through that coach Berti Vogts was on his way to take over Scotland's national side.

Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates were the other competing nations, all members of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Michael Church

Round-up

Blazevic quits Iran

THE long, drawn-out saga concerning the future of Miroslav Blazevic has finally ended with the Bosnian Croat resigning as head coach of **IRAN'S** national team.

Blazevic, who guided Croatia to third place at France 98, originally said he planned to stay on in Iran, despite failing to steer the country to this year's World Cup finals. But he then changed his mind, stating in a letter to the Iranian federation that he was stepping down for health reasons.

Stepping down...Blazevic

Blazevic has been replaced by another Croat, Branco Ivankovic, his assistant during the 11 months he worked in Iran.

"We need to rebuild the national team from scratch and we must give younger players more opportunity," said Ivankovic after signing a one-year deal.

The new coach will certainly be without one of the country's senior players following Karim Bagheri's announcement that he plans to quit international football.

Asian Super Cup-winning coach Kim Ho has been given a new two-year deal by **SOUTH KOREA'S** Suwon Bluewings. His contract, worth £275,000, makes him Korea's highest paid club coach. The 57-year-old has won two K-League titles, the Asian Club Championship and the Asian Super Cup in his time with Suwon.

Kiatisuk Senamuang has surprisingly joined Vietnamese club Gia Lai on a four-month contract. The 30-year-old **THAILAND** striker was expected to return to Singapore, where he played last season for the Armed Forces team.

FIFA's suspension of the **BANGLADESH** FA forced the postponement of this year's South Asian Football Federation Championship, due to be staged in Bangladesh in January and early February. FIFA's ban, which prevents the national team from playing any games, was imposed after the government's dissolution of the BFA's committee. FIFA says the suspension will be lifted only when the original office holders are reinstated.

The Asian confederation has directed the **INDIAN** FA to appoint an independent committee to investigate the violence between the players of East Bengal of India and Palmeiras of Brazil in the IFA Shield Final played last October.

Andrzej Wisniewski, former coach of Polish Second Division club Orlen Plock, has been named as the new manager of **PALESTINE**.

Michael Church & Azam Mahmood

The entertainer...Fernando Rech is Brisbane Strikers' inspirational playmaker

Strikers close in on Newcastle

United's unbeaten run is over, writes Paul Moon

AUSTRALIA

NEWCASTLE UNITED, the only unbeaten team in the National Soccer League, surrendered their record after losing 2-1 to Melbourne Knights.

The result meant Newcastle lost further ground on runaway leaders Perth Glory and put their second-place position under threat from surprise package Brisbane Strikers.

The Queenslanders, coached by former Australian international John Kosmina, have caught the eye with their entertaining play, orchestrated by Brazilian midfielder Fernando Rech.

However, the recruitment of Jason Kearton is probably the biggest factor in their improvement this season. The keeper returned to Brisbane in the off-season after 13 years in England, eight as No 2 to Neville Southall at Everton.

Glory, Newcastle and Strikers seem certain to qualify for the championship play-offs, with Sydney's Olympic Sharks another of the likely candidates. Indeed, Olympic have been tipped by some pundits as potential title winners, despite their inconsistency. They are the only team to have beaten Glory but, in the next round, were defeated by lowly Auckland Kingz.

● Lepea were declared winners of the **SAMOAN** Cup after their would-be Final opponents, American Samoan champions Pansa, were disqualified minutes before the kick-off for naming ineligible players in their line-up.

Officials stepped in after learning that five Pansa players were not registered with the American Samoan FA. The same offence led to the Pago Pago team's expulsion from the 2001 Oceania Club Championship.

Lepea also enjoyed a huge slice of good fortune in the semi-finals of the tournament, which featured leading teams from American Samoa and Samoa, plus invited sides from around Oceania. They were beaten 2-1 by Fiji Flyers, a team of New Zealand-based Fijians, but were awarded victory because Flyers had failed to arrive at the ground at the scheduled time.

Paul Moon

CROSSWORD

Mitre The authority..

Win a top-quality Mitre football

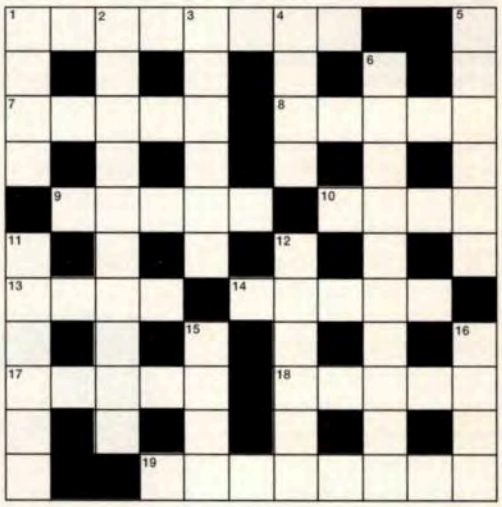
Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football as first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after March 22 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer Yearbook*.
SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: MARCH CROSSWORD, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

ACROSS
1 Former ASEC Abidjan coach appointed by Esperance of Tunisia (8)
7 Berlin Second Division club among the 2001-02 UEFA Cup entrants (5)
8 Senegal striker spearheading Lens' title challenge in France (5)
9 Greece-based Liberian midfielder once with French club Grenoble (5)
10 Luis Costa's successor as coach of Spanish Cup holders Zaragoza (4)
13 Estonia's keeper at Derby (4)
14 French coach who guided Senegal to Korea/Japan (5)
17 21-year-old HJK forward already capped by Finland (5)
18 Liberia's ex-Junior Professionals defender at Greek club Kria Vrisi (5)
19 Swiss Cup holders disqualified from this season's competition (8)

DOWN
1 Controversial German coach in charge at Besiktas (4)
2 Former Dinamo Zagreb star who helped Venezia return to Serie A (10)
3 Ex-Porto coach now with AEK Athens (6)
4 Polish champions of 1996 and 1997 (4)
5 Goalkeeper transferred last year from Parma to Juventus (6)
6 Reigning champions of Cameroon (10)
11 Portuguese city that is home to the Antas and Bessa stadiums (6)
12 Ex-Slavia keeper of Levski and Bulgaria (6)
15 Young Liberian forward unlucky with injuries at Bastia (4)
16 Cameroon player whose penalty kick clinched Olympic gold in Sydney (4)

JANUARY SOLUTION
Across: 1 Grazer AK, 6 Roma, 7 Vargas, 9 Tessem, 10 Barry, 11 Munch, 14 Revivo, 16 Naybet, 17 Roll, 18 Assuncao.
Down: 2 Rwanda, 3 Rustu, 4 Krasousky, 5 Emre, 8 Guardiola, 12 Chiesa, 13 Jones, 15 Eto'o.

JANUARY WINNERS
1st prize: Kevin East, Mosborough, Sheffield.
5 runners-up: Edward H-Sau Ma, Junk Bay, Hong Kong; J Cutajar, Valletta, Malta; Uzoma Albert, Indiana, USA; Ahmed Ali Al-Yahyai, Seeb, Oman; Steve Zolezzi, Missouri, USA.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____

POSTCODE _____

MAR (photocopied coupons are acceptable)

FOR SALE

The Final Whistle

SIMPLY soccer, SIMPLY play-by-mail, SIMPLY the best!

Soccer Management Simulation for all ages

FA Cup Final, your club is 2-1 down with 10 minutes left! What are you going to do?

Fancy yourself as a soccer manager? Put yourself to the test against other football fanatics in a bid to become the best!

Choose from English, Scottish, Spanish, Italian leagues or European Superleagues.

- More than 30,000 real-life players from every continent.
- Domestic and European cup competitions.
- Transfers, loans, contract negotiations and freedom of contract.
- Injuries and suspensions.
- Arrange friendly matches with other managers.
- Enhance your reputation and have the big clubs knocking on your door.
- Fail to impress your chairman and face the sack.
- Train, motivate and fine players.
- Engraved trophies for league and cup winners.

Contact us for further information stating at least four choices of club in order of preference.

The Final Whistle, P.O Box 9393, Erskine, Renfrewshire, PA8 6WJ
E-mail administration@thefinal-whistle.co.uk
Tel no. 0141 561 0705

花田 Guest House Hanata

o Friendly o inexpensive o clean o convenient

Private rooms each with western style unit bath and toilet. Air Con. Inc. public phone, shared kitchen, community room with cable & satellite TV & VGR, and coin laundry. Only 30 mins from Veno station. Close to the Saitama stadium, can go to the Yokohama stadium.

Rates	Day	Week	Month
Single	4800 yen	2800 yen	4800 yen
Double	7000 yen	38000 yen	65000 yen

4-12-7 Hanata Koshigaya
Sanitama 343-001S
Tel: (0489)68 9533
Fax: (0489)55 9510
Email:
g.hanatothemis.ocn.ne.jp
Homepage:
http://www.bekkodme.ne.jp/i/hanata

The Jewel in World Footballs Crown

in celebration of 72 years of world cup history
1930-2002
LIMITED EDITION
full size replicas of the
JULES RIMET TROPHY & FIFA WORLD CUP

yes - its really true,
for more exciting information plus colour brochure please write to:
Beaumont Replicas, P.O. Box 6774
Birmingham B5 7NL England
Tel: 0121 446 5705
for the serious fan, a serious trophy

WORLD FLAGS

St George, Union Flag, Your Own Design or any flag from any country in 6' x 3'
Large and XL with your own text on badge.

ASTRO FLAGS

Unit 1, Bridge Farm Industries, Curbridge, Southampton SO30 2HB
Tel: 01489 785733 *Fax:* 01489 784887
www.astroflag.com or www.englandfc.net
We deliver worldwide

LA-VANITA SINGAPORE

3 Coleman St 02/36m Peninsula Shopping Centre, Singapore 179804
Tel: 3370121 Fax: 3380331
E-Mail: lavanita@pacific.net.sg
Stockists of replica jerseys, souvenirs and figurines of Premier league and Euro top clubs and teams 2001/2002.
Retail/wholesale/export enquiries welcome

FOR SALE, World Soccer collection. Over 210 copies in excellent condition, covering the periods: 1977-96. Contact: 07768132585 for more details.

SOUVENIRS

ENAMEL BADGES, Scottish, Irish, UK, worldwide selection for sale. Send for FREE illustrated catalogue. T. R. Smith, 48 Greyfriars Street, Glasgow, Scotland G32 6RF. Tel: 0141 7783409. Or E-mail: badgepins@aol.com

MISCELLANEOUS

SOCCER COACH USA

There are hundreds of opportunities available right now to work as soccer coaches in the States. These positions, open to all ages and abilities, offer a lucrative expenses paid trip to the States to coach childrens soccer and most jobs involve only 3 hours work a day! Accomodation is free and you will also have a company car at your disposal. Soccer is booming in America and this is a fantastic opportunity that should not be missed!!

For more information, please send a S.A.E. to:
Delta Publications, Dept WS, 8 Douglas Gs, Durham, DH1 3PT
or visit our website on:
www.deltapublications.co.uk

Listen To A Friend Being Sent Round The Bend!!

Dial: 09064 070 095

Choose A Joke
Mr Fury · Irate Delivery Driver
Invite From No.10 · The Detective
Tax Inspector · The Lawyer From Hell

Dial Your Friend's Number
(Catch Your Victims At Home · In The Office Or On Their Mobile · There Is No Escape)

When They Answer The Joke Starts

You Can Hear Them...BUT They Can't Hear You!

Calls cost £1.50/min at all times - Prizes Ltd, 78 York Street, London W1H 1DP

It's for you...

Send them to hell and back with a devilishly wicked wind up phone call. Dial the number below, choose a joke, then sit back and listen to your victim squirm.

FREE MOBILE CALLS FOR LIFE - YOUR CAR'S BEEN TOWED
INVITE TO GO DRINK TESTING - THE DETECTIVE
WHY IS YOUR NUMBER ON MY GIRL'S MOBILE - IRATE TAXI CONTROLLER AND MR FURY

You can hear them but they can't hear you...

09067 380 417

NEW JOKES!

FED UP OF GLASSES?

Do glasses or contact lenses interfere with your enjoyment of sports, as a player or a spectator?

Optimax specialises in Laser Vision Correction for short sight & astigmatism. Millions just like you are now free to live to the full, without the hassles and expense of their lenses.

"Being able to see for miles without aid is just great!"

Peter Bailey
Football Referee
Derbyshire

FROM £495 PER EYE

EASY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Enjoy Sports
Enjoy Socialising
See Upon Waking
Save Time & Money

Optimax
LASER VISION CORRECTION SPECIALISTS
Quote Ref: WSM01

CALL NOW FOR A FREE BROCHURE
08705 14 33 14
BIRMINGHAM • BRISTOL • CROYDON • GLASGOW • LIVERPOOL
LEEDS • LONDON • MANCHESTER • NEWCASTLE

VIDEOS

TRACKS SOCCER VIDEOS & DVDS

FREE CATALOGUE, FREE VIDEO, BUY 4 GET ONE FREE + HUNDREDS MORE AVAILABLE

BBCV5440	ARSENAL 1886-1986	£4.99
CHV2230	ASTON VILLA HEROES & VILLAINS	£4.99
THE20112	CHELSEA 6 MEMORABLE MATCHES	£4.99
ITX95	IPSWICH TOWN SIMPLY THE BEST	£4.99
PEG 1209	LEEDS UTD HISTORY OF FA CUP	£4.99
LCX95	LEICESTER CITY SIMPLY THE BEST	£4.99
PNV1088	LIVERPOOL FA CUP HISTORY	£5.99
MUV15	MAN UTD 9 IPSWICH TOWN 0 1995	£4.99
MUV39	PETER SCHMEICHEL GOALKEEPER	£4.99
PNV1090	SPURS HISTORY OF FA CUP	£4.99
PEG1212	WEST HAM HISTORY OF FA CUP	£4.99
BBCV5263	101 GREAT GOALS INT, FA CUP, LEA	£2.99
CHV2104	TROUBLE ON THE TERRACES	£4.99
THE20061	FA CUP 1961 SPURS v LEICESTER	£5.99
THE20062	FA CUP 1964 WEST HAM v PRESTON	£3.99
THE20068	FA CUP 1973 SUNDERLAND v LEEDS	£3.99
THE20077	FA CUP 1982 SPURS v Q.P.R.	£3.99
THE20080	FA CUP 1985 MAN UTD v EVERTON	£3.99
THE20082	FA CUP 1987 COVENTRY v SPURS	£3.99
CHV2220	GLEN HODDLE ENGLANDS TRIBU	£4.99
SWV0033	500 CLASSIC INT GOALS 1982/92	£5.99
6326523	FOOTBALL ITALIA ITALIAN JOB	£4.99
6326503	FOOTBALL ITALIA GOL!	£4.99
SWV0034	HISTORY OF THE W/C 1966/90	£4.99
PEG1011	ENGLANDS GREATEST GAMES Vol. 1	£4.99
PEG1012	ENGLANDS GREATEST GAMES Vol. 2	£4.99
ILC0084	FIFA 1954 W/C FILM GERMAN GIANTS	£4.99
ILC0085	FIFA 1958 W/C FILM HINEIN	£4.99
ILC0086	FIFA 1962 W/C FILM VIVA BRAZIL	£4.99
6323683	FIFA 1966 W/C FILM GOAL	£4.99
ILC0087	FIFA 1970 W/C FILM WORLD/FEET	£4.99
SWV0068	EURO 1996 ALL THE GOALS	£5.99
SWV0069	EURO 1996 HIGHLIGHTS	£5.99
SWV0078	EURO 1996 NETHERLANDS 1 ENG 4	£4.99
6392683	ENGLAND BEST FOOTBALL/SUN	£4.99

FREE CATALOGUE AVAILABLE OVER 600 VIDEOS & DVDS.
SEND A SAE TO: TRACKS 14 RAILWAY ST. HERTFORD, HERTS SG14 1BQ, ENGLAND.
TEL: 44 (0) 1992 589294 FAX: 44 (0) 1992 587090
Website: www.tracks.org.uk E-Mail: soccer@tracks.org.uk

Name: .....
Address: .....
.....
.....
Postcode: ..... Tel: .....

Qty.	cat no.	title	price

CREDIT CARD DETAILS — Please inc. postage on free video pp — Cheque/Credit card — Total

Signature ..... Expiry date ..... Switch Issue no. .....

POSTAGE & PACKAGING UK £1.20 PER VIDEO. EIRE & MAINLAND EUROPE £2.00 PER VIDEO
OUTSIDE EUROPE £3.90 per video inc. p&p for FREE VIDEO
Make cheque/P.O. payable to TRACKS (UK POSTAL ORDERS only Please)
Overseas customers please note Payment may be made by Credit Card or Cheque from your Bank in Sterling

MARADONA - STORY OF A LEGEND
DVD 213 £17.99

THE HISTORY OF UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
DVD 217 £17.99

LA STORIA DEL GRANDI CLUB
HISTORY SHOWING GREAT VICTORIES & STAR PLAYERS

DVD 219	JUVENTUS	£17.99
DVD 220	MILAN	£17.99
DVD 221	INTER	£17.99

I GRANDI PALLONI D'ORO
A COLLECTION OF GOLDEN BALL WINNERS, WITH STATISTIC GOALS & ACTION.
DVD 218 £17.99

PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMME PROMOTIONS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PROGRAMME COLLECTORS
www.footballprogrammes.com
which includes an up to date listing of our stock, pre-war to date
No internet access ? No problem!
Clients who have never sent before, forward your name and address to:
P.O. BOX 209, Hounslow, Middx TW3 4DF
For a free copy of our next bi-monthly
MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE
If you have been on our database previously please send 5 x 1st class stamps towards costs.
www.footballprogrammes.com/onlineshop
Go direct to the secure e-commerce division where you can buy all the latest big match eg
Holland v England, Worthington Cup Final
with your credit card. Extensive selection of back issues stocked.
FOOTBALL PROGRAMME COLLECTIONS ALWAYS WANTED ! (020) 8569 5131

FREE
PROGRAMME CATALOGUE

To receive a **FREE** copy of our latest catalogue (listing several thousand different mint condition Big Match and League teams programmes etc.) please send your name and address to:
STEVE EARL FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES (WS)
BROAD ST., BUNGAY, SUFFOLK NR35 1AH
or phone **01986 892621** or visit
www.footballprogs.freeserve.co.uk
(Big Match Programmes also purchased)

Michael Hewitt Programmes
For our FREE introductory catalogue covering all aspects of football collecting:
PROGRAMMES/MATCH TICKETS/BADGES/MEMORABILIA
just send your full address.
LARGE EUROPEAN/WORLD CUP AND INTERNATIONAL SECTIONS.
WE BUY OR EXCHANGE FROM ALL COUNTRIES - CARRIAGE PAID.
All major CREDIT and DEBIT cards accepted.
20 Suzanne Crescent, South Elmsall, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF9 2BB.
Telephone & Fax: 01977 643107
E-mail: HEWITTPROG@aol.com

COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF PROGRAMMES INCLUDING A GOOD SELECTION OF EUROPEAN
We are always interested in purchasing collectors especially older items.
Please send 50p for our latest catalogue to:
KATH and PETE,
Rundo Football Programmes, 4 Crawford Avenue, Gauldry, Newport-On-Tay, DD6 8SG. Tel: 01382 330356

SOCCER TOURS

ISL TOURS + TOURNAMENTS 2002
The West Country Cup
The Pompey Cup
The Amsterdam Cup
The Brondby Cup & many others
For details visit us at www.isltours.co.uk
or call 0161 790 0840 or 02392 200400

World Cup?
www.SOCCERPHILE.com
The Onside In-Site from Korea and Japan

INTERNET

LEEDS UNITED HISTORY, see the story in words and pictures of the great Revie era. Free at www.geocities.com/twelveatthetop

LEEDS UNITED HISTORY, see the story in words and pictures of the great Revie era. Free at www.geocities.com/twelveatthetop

SOFTWARE

Soccer GamePlanner™

- Create lines of running for players and officials
- Create passes, crosses and shots for all players
- Create a database of player and team details
- Print player details, plan details, weekly team sheets
- Adjust player, ball and Action! speeds
- Switch on/off opposition
- See all your plans in Action!

"Soccer GamePlanner™ costs just £25"
Download from
www.gameplanner.co.uk

FOOTBALL KITS

PRO-DIRECT SOCCER

www.prodirectsoccer.com

FOR THE LATEST SPECIAL OFFERS, CHECK OUR WEBSITE!

>>orders hotline **www.prodirectsoccer.com**

01803 200343

272 UNION STREET
TORQUAY, TQ2 5QY

SUPER FAST SOCCER MAIL ORDER NEXT DAY DELIVERY

Call Now! for your FREE 40 page catalogue

OPEN WEEKDAYS 9AM-9PM
SUNDAYS 10AM-4PM

THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE FOR BOOTS, GLOVES & EQUIPMENT

P&P ONLY £2.95

All major cards accepted

For Pro-Direct Tennis call 01803 212005

SAVE £40 — ADIDAS PREDATOR PRECISION 2 SG — 6-13 inc½'s was £119.99 NOW £79.99 — Sizes 3½-5½ was £74.99 £49.99

ADIDAS PREDATOR PRECISION 2 FG CHAMPIONS LEAGUE EDITION — Sizes 6-13 inc½'s £129.99 — Sizes 3½-5½ £74.99 £49.99

SAVE £40 — ADIDAS PREDATOR PRECISION 2 SG — 6-13 inc½'s was £119.99 NOW £79.99 — Sizes 3½-5½ was £74.99 £49.99

SAVE £20 — ADIDAS PREDATOR PRECISION 2 FG — 6-13 inc½'s WAS £119.99 NOW £99.99

SAVE £20 — ADIDAS NOVA MUNDIAL SG — 6-13 inc½'s was £99.99 NOW £79.99

CLASSIC BOOT — ADIDAS WORLD CUP SG/COPA FG — Sizes 6-13 inc½'s £79.99

NIKE TIEMPO PREMIER SG+FG — Sizes 6-13 inc½'s £79.99

SAVE £30 — NIKE AIR ZOOM TOTAL 90 SG — 6-10 inc½'s was £99.99 NOW £69.99

NEW FOR 2002 — NIKE AIR ZOOM TOTAL 90 SG — Sizes 6-13 inc ½'s £109.99

SAVE £30 — NIKE AIR ZOOM TOTAL 90 SG+FG — 6-13 inc½'s was £109.99 NOW £79.99 — Sizes 3½-5½ was £69.99 NOW £39.99

NIKE TIEMPO PRO SG+FG — Sizes 6-13 inc½'s £39.99

NIKE TIEMPO PRO TURF — Sizes 6-13 inc½'s £39.99

PUMA KING SL SG + FG — Sizes 6-13 inc½'s £99.99 — Sizes 1-4 £79.99

SPECIAL OFFER! — PUMA CELLERATOR SG + FG — Sizes 6-13 inc½'s WAS £99.99 NOW £59.99

PUMA KING PRO SG + FG — Sizes 6-13 inc½'s £79.99

CLASSIC BOOT — VALSPORT GREEN STAR SG+FG — Sizes 5-12 inc½'s £79.99

CLASSIC BOOT — VALSPORT FOURICLASSE SG+FG — Sizes 6-12 inc½'s £79.99

EXCLUSIVE BOOT! FREE PLAYERS BAG! — DIADORA BRASIL SPA SG/FG (PRO MODEL) — Sizes 6-12 inc½'s £89.99

SPECIAL OFFER! — REEBOK TENACIA SG+FG — 6-13 inc½'s was £79.99 NOW £49.99

SPECIAL OFFER! — REEBOK BALENI SG+BLADE — 6-12 inc½'s was £79.99 NOW £49.99

SAVE £20 — UMBRO XAI SG+FG — 6-13 inc½'s was £119.99 NOW £88.99

ASICS TESTIMONIAL SG+FG — Sizes 6-12 inc½'s £79.99

3 SOLE OPTIONS — A-LINE ULTRA SG/FG/VT — Sizes 5-12 inc½'s £79.99

3 SOLE OPTIONS — A-LINE DYNAMIC SG/FG/VT — Sizes 5-12 inc½'s £69.99

FREE COACHING CD ROM — PUMA 'ROBINSON' PRO ROLL 2002 — Sizes 7-11 inc½'s £39.99

SONDICO PDS TITANIUM PRO ROLL — Sizes 8-14½ inc½'s £56.99

SAVE £20 — REUSCH PRO ORTHOTEC 2001 — Sizes 8-11 inc½'s WAS £59.99 NOW £29.99

SAVE £20 — ADIDAS FINGERSAVE TITANIUM — Sizes 8-12 PSO WAS £54.99 NOW £34.99

SELSPORT WRAPPA 2001 — Sizes 7-11 inc½'s £49.99

ADIDAS PDS FINGERTIP BANDAGE 2002 — Sizes 7-12½ inc½'s £29.99

BRINGING THE PREMIERSHIP TO YOUR DOOR!

MEMORABILIA

For ALL your exclusive football memorabilia

SPORTograph

visit
www.sportograph.com

Secure on-line ordering and payment
All product is genuine and carries our certificate of authenticity

Units A2/A3 • Edison Road
St.Ives • Cambs • PE27 3LD
T: 01480 357182
E: jason@sportograph.com

MatchSeats.Com

We BUY and SELL rare collectible signed and/or worn soccer jerseys.

Beckham	Pele	Louis Enrique
Rivaldo	Romario	Baggio
Cabrini	Zenga	Cruyff
Nauata	Battistuta	Elber

Currently in stock...and many more!
Own a piece of Football History
www.matchseats.com
980 Post Rd. East, Westport C+ 06880 USA
Tel: 1-203-2278201 Fax: 1-203-2278204
alex@matchseats.com

QUALITY ENAMEL FOOTBALL BADGES FOR SALE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
Specially ENGLAND, BRAZIL, ITALY, ARGENTINA, FRANCE, SPAIN, GERMANY. The badges range from 1950's to 1970's period.
For further information contact:
DUNCAN ROTHWELL
67 Browning Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8AX
Tele Home: 0208 330 2061 Mobile 0792 9956005
Email: duncan.rothwell1@btinternet.com

PUBLICATIONS

'FUTBOL ESPANOL' The English publication dedicated to Spanish football. Subscriptions (12 issues): £24.95 (UK), £30.95 (worldwide) Payment? Enquiries: Envelope Publishing, PO Box 6127, Swadlincote, DE11 9XA. Tel: 0798-503-9891 (24 hrs) e-mail: roastduck@btopenworld.com

PUBLICATIONS

STC SPORTS TECHNOLOGY COACHING

Coaching — BOOKS
Training — VIDEOS
Injuries Problems & Prevention

FOR YOUR FREE CATALOGUE CONTACT US @
www.stc-online.co.uk
email: info@stc-online.co.uk
phone: 01285 712007
fax: 01285 712007

PLAY BY MAIL

Purefantasyfootball

The Closest You Can Get To Real Football Management

Pure Fantasy Football is the world's leading play-by-mail football game.

We have thousands of members of all ages. Over 200 games each with over 200 teams to choose from.

For a free Info Pack:

Write *(including your name & address):*
Pure Fantasy Games Ltd
Dept 800
Portland House, Bolsover Business Park, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S44 6BH

Or **telephone** 08700 793 793

Or **fax** *(including your name & address)* on 01246 241495

Or **email** *(including your name & address):*
infopack800@purefantasyfootball.com

Or visit our **web site:**
http://www.purefantasyfootball.com

PLAY BY MAIL

CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL PBM

In-depth adult Football Club Management simulation, using real clubs, real players and real personalities. Ninth season. FREE start-up. Worth a look. Send your details to:
Hemsoft, 54 Crellow Fields, Stithians, Truro, Cornwall TR3 7RE.
Email: hemsoft@paulhemmings.freeserve.co.uk

TICKET AGENTS

SPORTS EVENTS INTERNATIONAL LTD

World Cup 2002
All Champions League Fixtures
All Premiership Fixtures
+
All Domestic Cup Competitions
Tickets & Hospitality Available

CALL:
020 7636 7888
sportseventsinternational@hotmail.com

Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'Hammam hardly helped matters with his triumphal march around the touchline while the game was still on'

Showboating...Hammam basks in the acclaim of the fans after the controversial Cup tie against Leeds

Sam can't whitewash Cardiff fans

FOR many years, I have had cordial relations with Sam Hammam, now the owner of Cardiff City, so I was sorry to see him make such an exhibition of himself over the violent events during his side's home FA Cup tie with Leeds United.

The facts seemed hardly in dispute. Having pelted Leeds keeper Nigel Martyn with missiles during the game, to such an extent that he feared he might be blinded, great numbers of Cardiff fans invaded the pitch at the end of the game and made menacingly towards the Leeds end. Police battled to keep them back, with mixed success.

It was a frightening situation. Even as big and tough a fellow as Mark Viduka, who, you might say, goes elbow to elbow with Martin Keown when Leeds play Arsenal, admitted that he was greatly fearful for his safety.

Hammam hardly helped matters with his triumphal march around the touchline while the game was still on. He'd had permission to do so, he said, though no one yet has produced chapter and verse. He used to do the same thing when in charge of Wimbledon, he objected, but it has been pointed out that there is all the difference in the world between Selhurst Park with the Dons at home, usually watched by the equivalent of three men and a dog, and a seething Ninian Park, where the home fans have been notorious for decades.

Hammam declared that the pitch invasion was one of mere acceptable enthusiasm, then issued a ludicrous 3,000-word polemic, reeking of what the Italians call *vittimismo*, the claim of being victimised. There was, we should understand, a conspiracy against Cardiff, whipped up by the malign media.

Yet Cardiff's lunatic fringe, the so-called Soul Gang, have for ages been a byword for violence. Visiting fans tell alarming tales of being set upon, even though, in many cases, they are perfectly peaceable rather than members of a hooligan equivalent.

In 1974, there were ferocious clashes in Cardiff with Manchester United fans, while grim tales are still told of the depredations of 1,000 Cardiff fans locked out of a game at Brentford. A couple of seasons ago, Cardiff and Stoke supporters fought ferociously in the Potteries – jail sentences were later imposed.

Meanwhile, was Hammam the saviour or the ultimate nemesis of Wimbledon? There is no doubt that the romantic tale of how he first heard about the club from a taxi driver and poured in money to support them is true. If you went to their Roehampton training ground, there he was, every day. He had a close and productive relationship with Joe Kinnear, the long-time team manager.

Yet now you can hear embattled Wimbledon fans excoriating him for the way he left the club, pocketing no less than £28 million from somewhat ingenuous if fearfully rich Norwegian moguls, plus another £8m for selling Plough Lane to a supermarket chain and thus putting it out of contention as a football stadium – or so it appears.

Hero or villain? Even both? But if he hopes to whitewash the reputation of Cardiff's hooligans, not even 30,000 words will do it.

The truth about Villaplane

THAT admirable weekly magazine *France Football* recently published a long list of short biographies of French internationals down the years. One of them, somewhat to my surprise, was Alex Villaplane, left-half and captain of the French team that contested the 1930 World Cup.

The date of his death was given as 1944, which may have surprised some readers, wondering why he had died so young. A few lines were dedicated to a brief glitch in his international career, which didn't stop him from resuming it.

What, curiously, we were not told was the nature of his death. He was shot by the Resistance for his horrific exploits as a member of the *Milice*, the pro-Nazi militia notorious for appalling atrocities against members of the Resistance.

He did die in 1944. At least they got that right.

Vava remembered

ON the Saturday that Vava died, I came across Mel Hopkins in Tottenham High Street on my way to watch Spurs play Everton. We talked about Wales' superb defiance of Brazil during their 1958 World Cup quarter-final in Gothenburg – when Mel, at left-back, played the astonishing Garrincha out of the game.

Vava didn't play that day but how well he at centre-forward converted those two fine pull-backs from Garrincha against Sweden in the Final. And he scored again in the 1962 Final, in Santiago, against the Czechs.

Foxe in the dock

IT WAS interesting to learn that Hayden Foxe, West Ham United's red-headed Australian centre-back, distinguished himself last December by urinating over the bar and vomiting in a London club. Interesting to me because I was a member of the appeals panel that twice deliberated on his case for a work permit. On each occasion, he failed to gain the requisite majority.

That he should have been allowed an appeal from the first, unsuccessful, appeal was itself a generous act on behalf of the Department of Employment, for it very rarely happens. Harry Redknapp, West Ham's manager at the time, fervently assured us that if Foxe did not come to the Hammers, a queue of major European clubs was waiting to step in to seize him. Mysteriously, none of them came forward.

I was at Upton Park when, after a midweek match, Redknapp delivered a bitter attack on the decision not to grant Foxe a permit, emotionally declaring that Australia had stood by us in the war, yet players of German origin were receiving permits. This seemed to have nothing to do with the case, and I understand Redknapp later made his peace with the DOE.

Foxe, in time, did manage to qualify to join the Hammers. It should perhaps be pointed out that when the club brought their supposed extra evidence to the committee, it was known that in the recent Olympic tournament in Sydney, Foxe had given away the goal by Andrea Pirlo which brought Italy victory in the opening match and eliminated the Aussies from the tournament. Nor, even with the fragility of the West Ham defence, has he yet been able to gain a regular place.

Work permit battle...Hayden Foxe

Electioneering...Blatter has boasted of 100 countries who want him to stay on

Blatter blunders on

ARE WE really going to be stuck with Sepp Blatter at FIFA for another four years? Quite how he got to be president in the first place, when it all seemed done and dusted for Lennart Johansson, still remains something of a mystery.

And the salary he gets! He might almost be a star footballer. His predecessor, Joao Havelange, didn't, so far as I recall, take a salary at all, though David Yallop made detailed allegations about how he feathered his nest, both in Brazil and Zurich, in his devastating book, *How They Sold the Game*.

That Havelange remained in office for as long as he did tells you all you need to know about the bunch of placemen, sycophants and spongers who kept him there. He, like Blatter, profited from the fatuous one country, one vote system, which means that Liberia has the same clout as France, Haiti the same clout as England. So long as it exists, a wily president of FIFA, bearing all sorts of enticing gifts, will probably be able to survive.

So perhaps Blatter will – as Havelange so often did – wriggle out of trouble. Serious trouble, surely, in the shape of the colossal losses provoked by his obstinate insistence on continuing to deal with the tottering ISL marketing organisation, when another group, IMG, were perfectly ready to step in.

Quite shamelessly, when FIFA and he had a platform at the Cannes Football Expo in January, he indulged in blatant electioneering, boasting of the 100 countries who had begged him to stay in office. They probably did, knowing they could profit from his continuing.

At least at the moment his 24 executive members are showing a resistance abysmally missing during the Havelange days. Has FIFA become responsible for ISL's losses, which could be as much as £800m? No, says Blatter, but then he would, wouldn't he?

As for his insistence that Africa "must" have the World Cup in 2010, or whenever, this again is sheer electioneering.

● *Log on to Brian Glanville's new weekly column – every Wednesday at www.worldsoccer.com*

March 1967

EUSEBIO earned his place on the cover 35 years ago having "enjoyed much personal triumph during 1966". This included finishing second to Bobby Charlton in the European Footballer of the Year vote and inspiring Portugal to third place at the World Cup.

The next finals were already being anticipated, however, with the issue devoting a page to picture four of the stadiums to be used in Mexico.

The standard of refereeing at the 1966 World Cup had been appalling, in the view of Brian Glanville, introducing the subject to help back his case that making referees professional should be seriously considered.

Glanville's article was just one of the many items in the issue that made reference to discipline, good and bad. Sidney Clarkson, the magazine's regular contributor for 'The man in the middle's views', was principally concerned about the attitude of players.

Clarkson related how, during one Sunday game, he was just about to get the second half under way when one of the players asked him: "Can I finish this cigarette?"

"I asked him what kind of cigarette it was," Clarkson wrote, "and on being told 'Woodbine', I said with a smile: 'Sorry, lad, I can only deal with players!'"

There had been a spate of dismissals in the most recent Argentinian championship, with 116 players sent off in the 380-game programme. By contrast, Arthur Rotmil related, Hasse Nilsson had recently become only the sixth player to be dismissed in the Swedish League since 1923.

The same writer also mentioned how Paraguayan star Martin Gonzales had just picked up the 'Friendliest Footballer' award, decided by his country's sports writers. "During the ceremony, it was stated that Gonzales never complained about even the sharpest criticism," wrote Rotmil. Gonzales had responded by saying: "I must admit that not even the most vicious criticism could ever worry me, because...you see...I can't read!"

The major footballing innovation under scrutiny was the imminent launch of North America's Professional Soccer League. There was enthusiasm about the project from Clive Toye, general manager of the Baltimore Bays team, who wrote: "Here, in close up, the sights and sounds of soccer on the move are magnificent." Colin Jose was less euphoric, warning that the League would struggle to receive the necessary media coverage. Roger Macdonald was concerned that the quality of players was not good enough, but conceded money should not be an issue for the new venture.

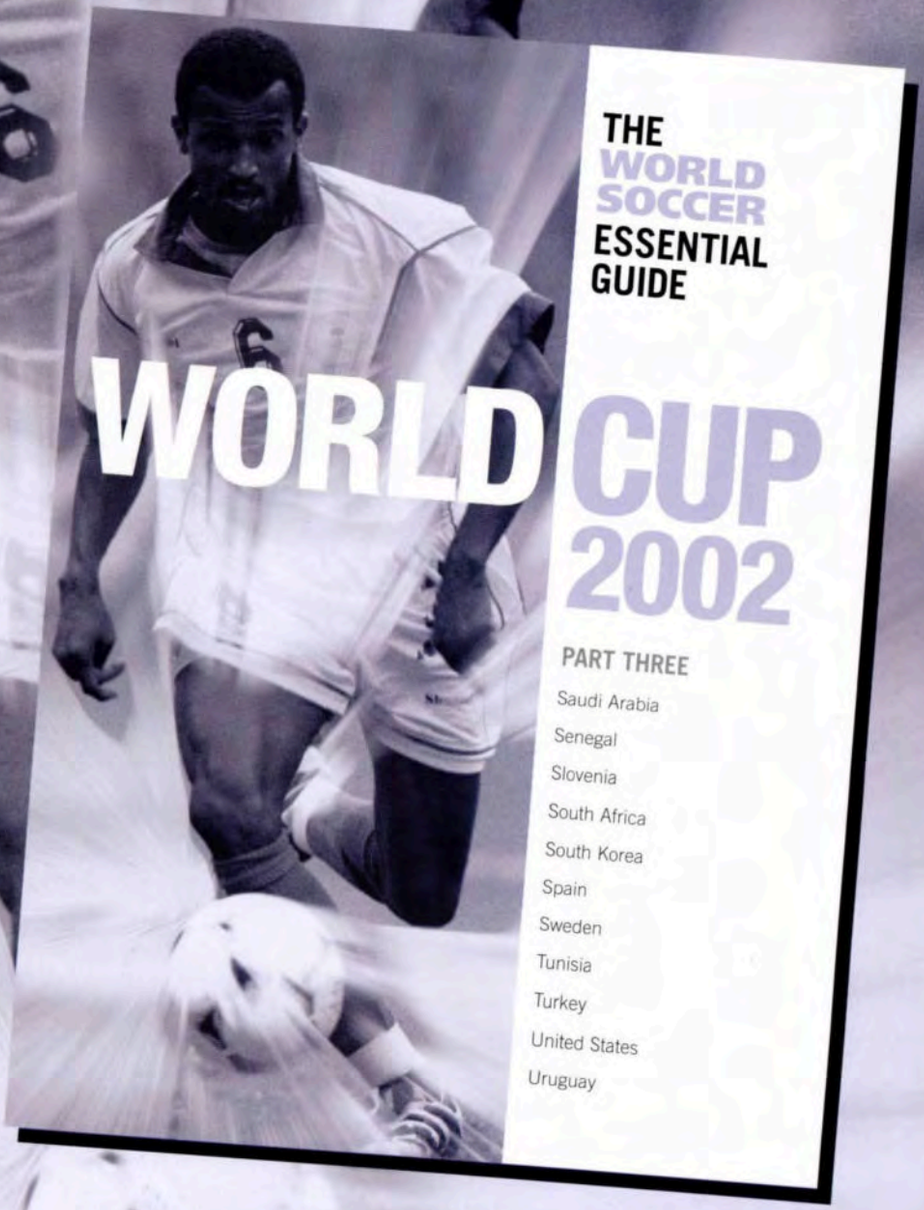
"No sports project has ever been backed by such huge resources of capital," wrote Macdonald. "One is reminded constantly of the president of an American football team that was losing $450,000 a season. Asked how long he could afford to go on taking such losses, he drawled: 'I guess about 310 years.'"

NEXT MONTH

Yet another FREE 52-page booklet!

PART THREE OF THE WORLD SOCCER ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE 2002 WORLD CUP

Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Slovenia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sweden
Tunisia
Turkey
United States
Uruguay



STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME WORLD SOCCER

APRIL ISSUE ON SALE MARCH 15

100% PURE COTTON FOOTBALL SHIRTS

TOFFS.Co.

THE OLD FASHIONED FOOTBALL SHIRT CO.

100% NOSTALGIA GUARANTEED

Yashin
USSR

Cruyff
Ajax

Sparwasser
East Germany

Moore
England

Pele
Brasil

George
Arsenal

Suarez
Barca

Gemmell
Celtic

Law
Scotland

Meazze
Italy

Herd
Man U

For free colour brochure of over 650 retro cotton soccer shirts please write to:
TOFFS Co., PO Box 71 Gateshead, NE11 OUZ, England.
or phone 0191 491 3400/3500 (use 00 44 191 3400/3500 outside UK)
or fax 0191 491 3305 (use 00 44 191 4913305 outside U.K 0011 44 from N.America)

www.toffs.com

Prices start at £31.50 - team discounts available